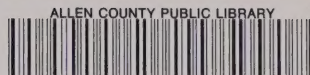


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Armour Community 75th
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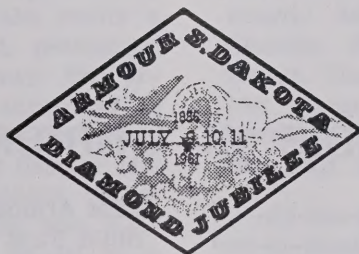
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Armour Community
75th ANNIVERSARY
Diamond Jubilee Edition
1886 - 1961



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Written, Edited and Published by
Mr. and Mrs. Maynard H. Goehring

Publisher - Owners
The Armour Chronicle
Armour, South Dakota

Dedication

We dedicate this book, in commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of Armour, South Dakota, and its community, July 9, 10 and 11, 1961, to the pioneers who in 1886 carved the town of Armour out of swamp, bleak prairie and nothingness and created a city; to the homesteaders and settlers whose years of toil and hardship turned unbroken sod into fertile fields, farms and ranches; and to the progressive citizens and children of today in whose hand future progress and development rests.

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ARMOUR — 75 YEARS (1886-1961)

Armour, South Dakota, 75 years old this summer, has witnessed many changes since its establishment in 1886. Although it wasn't the first town in the county or the immediate area, it grew rapidly. In its early days, it soon became the leading shipping and trading center for Douglas and Charles Mix counties as well as a small portion of Aurora County and parts west of the Missouri river, including Fort Randall.

Ironically, the railroad that brought about the boom in those early days, just 75 years ago, is in 1961 making only one round trip to Armour in one week. The various trails leading to Armour have given away to township, county, state and U. S. highways.

The main highway, U. S. 281, going through the city, leads from Canada into the country of Old Mexico with U. S. Highway 18, five miles south of Armour, leading from the East Coast to the West Coast. State Highway 44, four miles north, links the city with communities to the north and the east. When the Highway 44 bridge is built across the Missouri this summer, a short route to the west will be complete.

Another irony is that Highway 44 now goes through the old site of Grand View. This year, 1961, a historical marker was erected to designate its previous location. A rural school is the only building remaining at the Grand View site.

Brownsdale Gang Sets Up Phoney Government

In 1881, Walter H. Brown, representing the mythical town of Brownsdale, really a claim shack on his homestead, petitioned the Territorial Governor, Ordway, for organization of Douglas County, according to Wm. Pease's "Tales of Pioneering." The petition contained over fifty names despite the fact there were but a few resident voters and no post office. The petition was supposedly circulated, if circulated at all, at a time when deep snows made travel impossible. Governor Ordway appointed three men as County Commissioners, Walter H. Brown, Charles H. Stillwell, and a man named Hoyt. Stillwell refused the position and the other two appointed a Mr. Niese.

The three "Commissioners" purchased a full set of records and issued as many county, town and school warrants as they were able to negotiate, from "Brownsdale" which was located about four miles northwest of where Armour was later established.

It wasn't long before other settlers in the county became suspicious and organized a vigilance committee. The committee went to Brownsdale, only to find the leaders of the gang had fled. The records were seized and later burned. The raid went down in history as the "Brownsdale Raid," although rather a tame affair, according to Mr. Pease.

A settlers' meeting was held in May of 1882 and when the Governor was told about

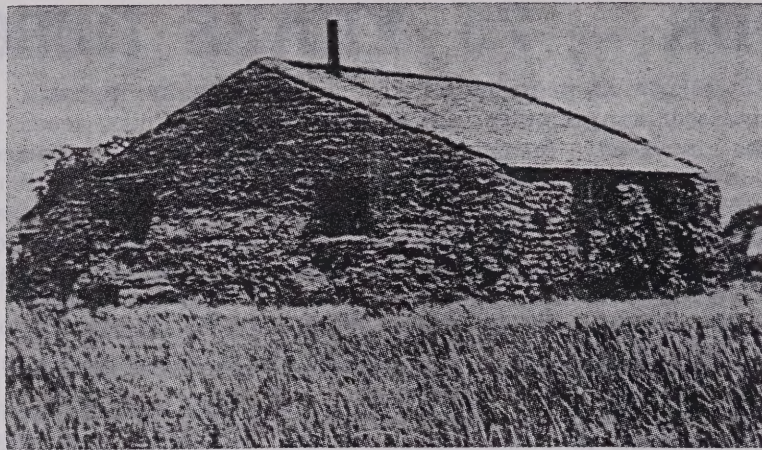
"Brownsdale," he appointed a new county board. Members were Charles Huston, Charles Houlton, and Frederick Diesterhaupt. The county seat was located at Huston (located three miles east and 1 mile north of Armour) at the board's first meeting, July 24, 1882.

At the November election, the people voted to locate the county seat at Grand View, where it remained until November, 1894.

The new county was named "Douglas" in honor of Stephen A. Douglas, who defeated an almost unknown man, Abraham Lincoln, for re-election to the Senate in 1858. Douglas was a supporter of the Kansas-Nebraska bill which allowed people of the territories to decide for themselves whether or not slavery should be permitted within their boundaries and included the principle of squatter sovereignty. Passage of the bill was due to the brilliant leadership of Douglas. Douglas was defeated by Lincoln in 1860 for the presidency, as Southern Democrats refused to support Douglas.

Although Douglas County was legally organized that winter, 1882, the Territorial Legislature legalized the acts of the Governor in appointing the new board. The law suits then began on the bogus warrants.

On June 2, 1887, an attorney from Mitchell came and proceeded to serve papers



Sod Shanty Near Armour

on the Commissioners of the County. The suit was brought by parties who held \$50,000 of the old bogus bonds which they wanted paid. In July of the same year, another suit was started against the county. This time a St. Paul bank, through their attorney, served papers on the County Commissioners for the payment of \$2,000 worth of bonds. This attorney stated that they commenced the suit to keep the warrants from being outlawed. The statute of limitations on the bogus warrants ran out in July of 1888. The general opinion in Douglas County at that time was to fight these cases as long as there was a dollar left with which to fight.

Major Dollard of Scotland and General Hugh J. Campbell and E. G. Smith of Yankton were employed to defend the county as a result of the early organization of the county and its corrupt manner of doing business.

In December, 1887, arrangements were made for taking testimony in the bogus war-

rant cases. In April of 1888, 220 pages of legal cap were used in taking the testimony in the Douglas County cases. There was evidence enough to prove the great fraud that was perpetrated on Douglas County and the attorneys were confident that they would win the suits. General Campbell secured the original petitions containing over 50 names—when there were but a few resident voters—which were presented to Gov. Ordway asking for the organization of Douglas County by Walter H. Brown. The old settlers, to a man, swore they had never seen the petitions before although their names appeared on them. The defendants considered the petition valuable evidence, but the county ended up paying for the warrants. However, before Dollard could invalidate the bonds in the courts, the total amount of warrants issued equaled about \$65,000. Of the \$65,000, the county finally ended up paying for about \$7,000 of the bogus warrants.

Some "Firsts" in Clerk of Courts Records

In December, 1960, Janet Morris, serving her 32nd year as Clerk of Courts, made this report to the Douglas County Historical Society:

First marriage on record is of Lewis Parks and Fannie Brown, at residence of John Brown, father, in 1883.

First birth on record: Emil Paul Wenzel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gottlieb Wenzel in Berlin (now Washington) Township, S. D., in 1881, reported in 1939.

First birth after records were kept: Ward Roger Williams, son of Mr. and Mrs. Abe Williams, July 1, 1905.

First death record of Mable M. Connell, 6 days old, died June 30, filed July 1, 1905 (daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Connell).

Grand View, County Seat, Platted on Hill in 1882

After the November, 1882, election and the permanent location of the Douglas County Seat at Grand View, the towns of Huston, Plain View, and Douglas City slowly faded away. Grand View was laid out and platted by K. G. Foster, R. Prescott, and Joe Devy and the original town was built upon a hill, hence the name, "Grand View!"

It wasn't long, however, before George and Granvil Woolman, who had claims adjoining the land which Foster, Prescott and Devy platted, started a rival town. According to Wm. Pease's "Tales of Pioneering," the Woolmans proved their claims and platted lots on either side of the section line running between their claims. There was now an "Upper and "Lower" Grand View. The Upper town had the post office and the county seat, which gave it some advantage, but Lower Grand View grew and soon business was quite evenly divided between the two sections.

"George Lumley had a bank on the hill and Ed Johnson started one in the lower town. Fletcher ran a hotel in the upper town and Mrs. Perkins in the lower town. William Moore had an implement business in the hill town, but the Boylan Brothers located theirs in the lower town. The attorney for the 'uppers' was Ed Cline with W. E. Tip-ton, attorney for the 'lowers.'

"Each town also had their own newspaper. Mathews and Welch published 'The Chronicle' and Woolmans published the 'Enterprise.' Dr. LaShier was the physician of the hill town but Dr. Ward looked after the citizens of the lower Grand View."

The town of Grand View thrived and grew. Then the rumors of "The railroad is coming," and the county seat moved to the new town to be built, began circulating.

In the March 3rd, 1885, issue, George Mathews, publisher of "The Chronicle," denied that he was a prime mover in the agitation of the county seat removal scheme. "We have invested our money in Grand View and any removal of the county seat would be disastrous to us as it would to any of the business men of Grand View."

Mathews' successor, T. B. Roberts was also firm in the belief that Grand View would be permanent. In April of 1886, Roberts said, "If the Milwaukee officials think the good people of Grand View are going

like a pack of sheep to the new town, we will give them a pointer, they are off! We have worked and spent our good money building up Grand View and with a few exceptions we will remain where we are."

On April 12, 1886, the railroad surveyors reached Dobson's claim. No steps were taken at that time to locate the new town but Mr. Miltimore, a former Douglas County resident, announced that the graders would be at work in two weeks. F. P. Dobson had a contract to grade 12 miles of road. Grand View residents were confident and said, "Let her come, four miles is not far."

They were convinced that Grand View, with its elevation and superior site advantages, would triumph over Armour, which was to be located around the bed of a creek.

So the work on the railroad began. Ironically, provisions for the workers were purchased at Grand View and on June 10, twenty additional teams arrived to assist those already working on the railroad. Work was being pushed rapidly.

When the site for the new town was established, it was named "Armour" after P. D. Armour, a prominent meat packer and at that time a director of the Milwaukee railroad.

On Friday, June 11, 1886, about 150 people attended the sale of lots at Armour. Ten thousand dollars worth were sold in a short time and prices ranged from \$225 to \$375. Many land lookers from Mitchell attended the sale of lots.

According to old timers at Armour, lumber sold to individuals for homes and businesses was stacked outside the town site prior to the lot sales.

A death-dealing blow was dealt to the young town of Grand View when *The Chronicle* announced on June 24th that the majority of insurance companies doing business in Grand View had cancelled all policies on buildings in the town. No cause was given for the drastic action, but they probably thought there might be some who would rather see their buildings burn than move them to Armour.

T. B. Roberts, editor of the Douglas County *Chronicle* joined the exodus and moved to Armour and printed the first newspaper in the new town on June 29, 1886. Many businesses followed the move to Armour.

After the lot sales were held, things were really booming in the new town. In fact, exactly two months after the lot sales were held, there already were three hardware stores, three drug stores, two banks, two newspapers, two lumber yards, four livery stables, two hotels, one furniture store, one barber shop, one blacksmith shop, two meat markets, one wagon shop, and "lots of good water." In that short span of time, there were well over 60 buildings in Armour.

The town of Grand View slipped away to oblivion. Today, only a rural school, and an historical marker, marks the site which was once a thriving, prosperous community.



Grand View School, 1961

From "Bricks Without Straw"

By Adda B. Edwards

Perhaps some of you wonder what Armour looked like when I first saw it, fifty-some years ago. Well, I will tell you. When we moved in from the farm in 1902, Armour was not much like the town it is today. On the east side of Main Street, there was no house north of the present Goehring and Mead homes. On the west side of Main Street, the Boylan and Crutchett homes were the only ones north of the railroad tracks.

On the site of the present courthouse there was a frame affair. I think there are only four people living who were in business then: John Moran, Tim Norton, Frank Hanskutt, and Mrs. Mary Anderson. McKinnon was railroad agent, and Date Raben was working around. Mr. Julius Giroux had the first automobile, a clumsy affair with iron tires.

There were four churches, as I recall. The Baptist church was where the present high school building stands. The Campbellites had a church where the Montague house is, on Main Street, and the Methodists had a building where the Jim Bullock house is, behind Fat's. The Catholics had a church somewhere in the east part of town, and the Congregational church was located at the present site.

A twelve-grade school was the present Odd Fellows Hall building, which was cut in

two. There was no high school separate. The post office was on the east side of the street, about where Norton's store is.

Armour had three hotels: the Farmer's Hotel, where the Joe Fuchs' building stands, The Armour House, a two-story hotel where Nase's Hatchery is, and the Johnson House, a three-story hotel across from the Chevrolet garage. It burned several years ago. There were two livery stables, and people traveled around a good deal, needing to stay all night on their way. There were several saloons—I don't know how many because we never patronized them.

We had several grocery-dry goods stores: Hewitt's, Savage's, Sletterbak's. A good many men had their clothes made, and Frank Fenzl was the tailor. We had no Carnegie library in the early days, but there was a little library on the east side of the street, where Mrs. Beckman lives. The courthouse was an old frame building on the present location.

Tommy Taylor had the bakery, and Mrs. Mead had a millinery shop, and so did Miss Kuipers, later Mrs. Anderson. Mrs. Ward was the sports woman of the town. She had a two-wheeled cart and fine horses. Almost everyone had a stable, and some of these are still standing, I notice. They had one or two carriage horses and a fine carriage to take the family out riding. Many people kept chickens, cows, and pigs, too.

Real Freight Train Arrives in Armour in 1886

About three and one-half months after the lot sales, the first train arrived in Armour. On September 29, 1886, the long-looked-for railroad track was completed. The *Chronicle* relates, "The track reached here about noon which had been delayed three days because of accidents and the rains. The first freight brought in was the lumber for the elevators which will be built immediately and are to be ready for grain by October 10. The first train brought in a large crowd of men looking for locations and the prospects for the town looked indeed bright."

On Friday, October 8, 1886, the people of Armour witnessed a sight they had longed to see. It was a real freight train, consisting of 20 cars of lumber, coal and merchandise. On Monday, October 26 of that year, the first regular train was put on the Armour branch, with C. E. Coleman as conductor and McAvinney as engineer. The train left Armour daily, except Sunday, at 11:15 A.M. and arrived at 5:15 P.M., remaining in Armour overnight. To the people in Armour, it was such a break-through in transportation that the *Chronicle* humorously reported that a person could go to Yankton or Mitchell and still get back the same "year."

Even though the trains were running to Armour, there was a lot of work to be done on the tracks and the company employed two gangs of men.

Prior to the train's arrival in Armour and during the construction of the track, Armourites were naturally curious as to when the train was coming to town, as were the farmers that had grain and livestock to ship. During the first part of September,

most of the people were sure that Armour would see cars before the end of the month. On Sunday, September 19, Armour turned out en-masse and drove down to see the cars at Delmont.

During the week of October 17, the telegraph was put into operation to Armour. Temporary quarters were fixed up in the small building east of the depot.

The Milwaukee people struck a well on Choteau Creek at a depth of 13 feet, which filled 143 barrels an hour. During November, the Milwaukee carpenters started building a round house and turn table, just west of the depot, and a stock yard was also started.

According to the December 10, 1886, *Chronicle*, "The railroad company is painting everything red around the station." On December 17, it relates, "Our station agent is happy. He is at last domiciled in his new office and it is a dandy."

As Armour and the area started to develop, the railroad business grew rapidly. Every month more people were using the railroad as a means of travel and shipping freight. Since Armour was the end of the line and the railroad being the only means of travel, the Armour branch enjoyed good business and at one time it was one of the best paying railroads in the state.

In September of 1888, the Armour branch put on two crews, a daytime crew and a night crew. Snowstorms added to some of the troubles of the trains. Once in 1888 after a snowstorm, it took a gang of eight men two days to shovel the snow out of the turn table.

In those days the railroads ran special trains to the Fair in Mitchell, or to special



Train Going South About 3 Miles Northwest of Armour in 1917.

events in Sioux City or Yankton. In 1888, the cost of a round trip from Armour to Mitchell to the Fair was 1 cent a mile or \$1.10.

Three years after the first train arrived at the end of the line, Armourites were boasting, "There are no flies on Armour, eight trains a day."

For \$35.25, in February of 1889, a round trip ticket was sold at one limited first-class fare to the Presidential Inauguration at Washington, D. C., of President-Elect Harrison. The tickets were sold from February 27th to March 2nd inclusive, good to return on March 10th.

In April, 1900, according to Capt. J. F. Merry of Dubuque, Assistant General Passenger Agent for the Illinois Central Railroad, Douglas County had already become a stock county. For instance, from January 1, 1899 to January 1, 1900, according to the *Armour Chronicle*, there were shipped from the station at Armour, 366 carloads of hogs or an average of more than one carload a day for the entire year. And during that time there were shipped into Armour, 209 carloads of stock cattle, and there were shipped out, 139 carloads of fat cattle, most of which went to Sioux City. There also were 45 carloads of butter and eggs shipped out of Armour, most of which went direct to New York. Armour also averaged two

carloads of wheat a day for the entire year.

About May 15, 1906, a gang of men started to take down the round-house in Armour and ship it to Tripp. This was a blow to Armourites, since it ended all the dreams of Armour's future greatness as a railroad center. Up until this time Armour was a major point of operations for the railroad.

At the same time the railroad made some changes in its service, and to the people served by the Armour depot, it was disappointing to say the least. For passengers who went directly from Armour to Sioux City in one day prior to 1906, now had to spend the night in Tripp going and coming. It now took three days to make a round trip to Sioux City, when previously anyone could leave Armour in the morning and arrive home that evening if he so desired. To say that Armour residents were upset, is stating it mildly. According to the *Chronicle*, they figured that they were side tracked in favor of the main line going from Sioux City to Mitchell through Tripp.

Monday, July 2, 1906, according to the *Chronicle*, "Railway mail service between Corsica, Stickney, and the outside world started. The towns feel their oats since they have been placed in connection with the outside world."

Today, 1961, the train makes one trip a week to Armour on Thursday.

83 Voters for, 29 Against 1888 Incorporation

In November of 1887, a special meeting was held for a public discussion in regard to the incorporation of the city of Armour. The discussions continued, especially among small groups who were either in favor or opposed to the incorporation. In May of 1888, a meeting for incorporation was held and was well attended. A committee was appointed at this meeting and the matter was referred to them for further study and investigation.

On July 2, 1888, the county commissioners granted the petition of the people of Armour asking for an election to vote on incorporation and the election was to be held on Wednesday, July 25, 1888. The election was in the Knights of Pythias Hall, in the town of Armour, Douglas County, D. T., according to an official notice printed in the *Chronicle*.

The area for incorporation included the east half of section 12, township 98, range 64 and the west half of section 7, township 98, range 63 in Douglas County, D. T. The polls were open from 9:00 a. m. to 5:00 p. m. and the ballot read, "For Incorporation." The voters could vote yes or no.

The *Chronicle* of July 27, 1888, states "Those in favor of incorporation were somewhat surprised Wednesday morning to find that a certain element in town had been working on the 'still hunt' plan against incorporation. It was presumed that there was no opposition. The election was held in the office of E. W. Kline, being adjourned from the K. P. Hall where the notices read it was to have been held. It was a lively election and turned out to be a black eye for a certain few who supposed they owned the earth

and could carry any question they desired, here in Armour. Eighty-three votes were cast, fifty-four being for incorporation and twenty-nine against. A clear majority of twenty-five for. The next question will be the election of officers, and care should be taken in picking the men to get good ones; those whose interests are in the town and who will give the business the attention it should have."

According to the September 7, 1888, *Chronicle*, "At the commissioners meeting, Monday, September 3, 1888, the town of Armour was declared incorporated and the inspectors will now call an election to elect the town officers. Just as soon as the law will allow us we should elect these officers and see if, with good officers, some of the disgraceful scenes we have had the past two weeks can be remedied. Armour cannot afford to allow a repetition of scenes similar to those we had Saturday evening and Sunday."

On Tuesday, September 18, an election was held and the board of trustees was elected. There were two tickets, but the winners won by a large majority. There were 86 votes cast for the election of officers.

Members of the first board of trustees were Sam Shaw, G. W. Lumley, W. F. Duncan, Jas. A. Wilson, and W. A. Sherwin. C. F. Boylan was elected justice; C. H. Ellis, marshal; and B. T. Boylan, treasurer, clerk and assessor. On Saturday, September 22, the new officers took the oath of office before E. W. Cline. The trustees organized and elected G. W. Lumley, president.

On Saturday, September 29, the board passed a large number of ordinances at their meeting, and on Tuesday, October 9, passed on the remainder of the ordinances. They were published in the paper for the first time on Friday, October 12, 1888. On April 19, 1904, the town was incorporated as a city under the general laws.



Aerial View Looking North on Main Street About 1908

Courthouse Ready in 1895: First Trees in 1897

The first form of county government was started in 1881 by Walter H. Brown who mythically represented Brownsdale and fraudulently organized the county. This organization was broken up within a short time and in May of 1882 a new county government was set up and located at Huston, and the first meeting was held in July of 1882. In the November election of the same year, the people voted to locate the county seat at Grand View.

After Armour became established in 1886, efforts were made at various times to get the county seat moved to the new town.

In 1889, a bill was passed by the Legislature providing that where the county seat was off the railroad and where there were no county buildings of brick or stone, the county seat might be re-located on a majority vote. On petitions presented to the county commissioners, a special election was called for May 23rd, 1889, to vote on the question of moving the county seat to Armour. The question then became involved in politics with the result that Grand View received 620 votes to 483 for Armour.

The next efforts to remove the county seat from Grand View were made in 1894. At that time the town of Armour offered to build and donate to the county a good substantial courthouse in case of removal. At this election, Armour received 671 votes and Grand View, 225, and on Saturday, November 17, 1894, the records were moved from Grand View to the Armour State Bank, where the county offices were set up until the courthouse was built.

May 3, 1895, the courthouse was finished and ready for occupancy. Private subscriptions raised by the Armour citizens built the building worth \$6,000. The square lot was also donated. On May 31, 1895, the county commissioners passed a resolution accepting the courthouse donated by the citizens of Armour.

In May of 1897, trees were planted on

the courthouse square, some of which may possibly be there yet today. In May of that year, the *Chronicle* reported that the courthouse was becoming a popular resort for loafers at night and that the county officials found it necessary to lock it up when they were through with their labors.

After the railroad was extended to Corsica and Stickney, the town of Corsica had hopes of getting the courthouse moved there—contending that it was more geographically located. However, during the Armour-Grand View fight, a civil engineer definitely determined that the geographical center of the county was two and one-half miles north and one-half mile east of Armour.

On July 6, 1926, the county commissioners unanimously passed a resolution declaring the necessity for a new courthouse and submitted to the voters the question of issuing bonds for that purpose.

For some years the county levied a small annual tax which with interest amounted to \$50,000 by 1926. With the new courthouse expected to cost about \$100,000, the voters were asked to approve a bond issue for \$50,000 for the balance at the General Election in 1926. At the election the people voted in favor of the new building with a majority of 325 votes.

On February 1, 1927, the bonds for the \$50,000 were sold and on February 25, 1927, the old courthouse was sold to Gust Goehring and Emmanuel Brenner, the highest bidders, for \$715. The county then moved its offices into the Hanskutt building, except the Clerk of Courts and the Register of Deeds, who moved into the small brick building located just north of the courthouse.

On February 19, 1927, bids were opened for the construction of a brick building and accepted bids totaled \$101,709.00. One year later, February 24, 1928, the new building was dedicated. This building has been in continuous use since that time.

January Thaw Turns Into Famous 1888 Blizzard

January 12, 1888, began as an ideal January day. In the morning the temperature was about 34 degrees and residents of Armour believed there would be a "January thaw." But temperatures began to go slowly down and the wind changed to the northwest. At noon, one of the worst blizzards ever to strike South Dakota was raging. It was impossible to see ten feet ahead and the temperature was 4 degrees below zero.

The storm continued until almost morning when the wind subsided and the mercury went down to 26 degrees below zero. Wagon roads and the railroad lines were impassable and old settlers compared the big storm to the winter of '81 and '82.

On January 20, 1888, four lives were known to have been lost but several persons were missing. One survivor of the storm, E. S. LaForge, who was found by the Fort Randall stage driver, died later after amputation of one foot above the ankle, a thumb on his left hand and a toe on one foot.

Chas. Rhodes, son-in-law of Otto Gillar, started for the school house, half a mile away, to get his wife who taught there. He attempted to go against the storm and perished within a mile of his home.

Ed Christenson had started walking from Armour to Grand View and just as the storm struck, he met Jake Mack, who persuaded him to turn back. Together they attempted to return to Armour. With the storm raging, it was soon impossible to see the road. They lost their way and drifted with the storm about 12 miles, where just on the edge of the reservation, Mack became exhausted, and sat down in the snow. Christenson went on alone, walking with the storm.

At daylight when the sun came up, he realized he was on the reservation and turning, started north. He reached the Hutchinson farm home, two miles south of Delmont, about 11 o'clock a.m., badly frozen.

He had survived the worst blizzard in South Dakota history and by sheer endurance walked countless miles for almost 24 hours. Searching parties were sent out that day and two days later the party of Geo. Ames, S. W. Smith, Geo. Breitbach, and Sheriff Thompson discovered the body of Jake Mack at the point where Christenson had been forced to leave him, according to the *Chronicle*.

John Delmar, residing in the northwest part of the county, was caught in the storm and badly frozen as was Daniel Nolan, who had left Armour with LaForge. Nolan had wandered around in the storm on the reservation and reached the home of an Indian, Friday morning, where he was found by searching parties.

Mr. Folger, Todd, Walburn and the Fort Randall stage driver were on the Andes Lake when the storm struck. They turned their sled up on one side to make a shelter. With a large supply of robes and blankets, they stayed there 20 hours until the storm was over.

P. D. Burton had started for town and when he saw the storm coming, he attempted to return home. He was soon lost and turning his horses loose, walked back and forth in his sled all night. He survived the storm and was not severely frozen.

John Davis started for the school his children attended and after missing the road in the storm, turned his team loose. He took shelter under his sled where he was found with legs so badly frozen, amputation was required.

Walter Fiscus, who filed on a Douglas County homestead and tree claim in 1882, tied one end of a ball of twine on the door-knob of his home and carried the ball with him to school to get his children. He made the trip to and from the school safely although it took three hours.

William Conover went to the Chandler School which his children attended. After deciding it was too risky to make the return trip, he put his team of horses in the schoolhouse and remained overnight with the children and their teacher, Charles Sherman. Fred Stockwell also spent the night with them.

Mr. Stockwell, who is in his 90's, and lives in Bremond, Texas, is Dr. S. F. Mead's uncle. Mr. Stockwell wrote, "I was in the Adams Hardware Store when the blizzard struck. Adams had just handed me my change, then said, "Look at that!" Everything was just roaring and I started as quickly as I could. I could not see ten feet and almost ran over Will Whelock who was crossing the road in front of his place.

"I could not see the school but knew where it was. I put my pony in the coal shed. She was a bronc, half broke.

"Harry Piner was the only pupil who had left. The storm began to slacken about 5:00 a. m. and we all went home as soon as it was light. And I will tell you breakfast tasted good.

"When I got home I found a cow near the barn, dead and still standing up; it was P. D. Burton's cow."

Charles Palmer told the pupils in the school he taught to save half of their lunch for supper as it might be impossible for them to return home in the storm. He was right. The children and teacher spent the night in the school. In his book, William Pease relates how his father and brother arrived at daybreak with hot coffee and breakfast for everyone. School was dismissed for the day.

The barn on the Idleman farm, west of Armour, caved in during the big storm and Idleman's four horses were dead when dug out. Losing horses in those days was a serious matter.

Among farmers who lost cattle during the storm were Simpson and Doty, who lost 36 head; John Geidel, 30 head; J. Behrens, 10 head; C. Schroeder, 13 head; and M. Chamberlain, 11 head.

But tragedy was not over. In February, the body of another man who had perished in the big blizzard was discovered.

Another severe snowstorm was recorded in 1897. On Sunday, January 3, a storm began at noon and continued until Monday evening. Weather was not severely cold but strong winds were accompanied by very fine snow.

Drifts were from 10 to 15 feet high. The *Chronicle* reports that business men on the west side of the street had mountains of

snow to remove before they could open their businesses on Tuesday morning. Traffic was completely stopped and no trains were running. On Tuesday morning, the large rotary snow plow was sent out from Sioux City to clear the tracks.

The storm was general throughout the Dakotas, Nebraska, western Iowa and Minnesota. Snow was so fine that many homes in Armour had snow in attics. When it thawed, damage was done to wall paper and plaster.

The winter of 1948-49 was marked by several severe snowstorms. The first major storm was on November 16, 1948, when seven inches of snow fell. Visability was about 30 feet and a strong northeast wind was blowing, causing drifting snow and blocked roads.

On January 3, 1949, fifteen inches of snow came down. Hundreds of cars were stalled. The storm began Monday morning and lasted until about 10:00 p. m., Monday night. Tuesday, roads were plowed open only to drift shut again Tuesday night.

On Wednesday, March 30, 1949, the great grand-daddy of all recent storms hit Armour. Sixteen inches of wet, heavy snow snapped electric and telephone poles and wire. For two days Armour was completely isolated from the outside world, without electricity, radio, telephone and telegraph. Electric current was off from Wednesday, March 30, until Tuesday, April 4. Water supply ran low. On Friday, it was shut completely off and turned on periodically. A tractor was used to pump water at the city wells. After the blizzard conditions abated, youngsters were seen playing in the mountains of snow and enjoying their vacation. School was resumed April 5 after almost a week's vacation.

First Big Fire Takes 18 Business Places in 1891

The first major fire was on January 9, 1891, in the young town of Armour. The fire was discovered that Friday morning at about 4:00 a. m. on the west side of the Tribune building and a general alarm was given. The citizens turned out in a body and fought hard to confine the fire to one building, but water was scarce and the blaze was impossible to check.

One building after another caught fire and burned until 18 businesses on the two

blocks of the west side of Main Street running north from the Douglas County Bank, were in ashes. By tearing down the two buildings north of the brick bank, the fire was soon under control.

Water from an artesian well saved the buildings on the east side of the street as they caught fire several times. The Mitchell Fire Department was called upon for help and responded, by sending a special train with a hose cart and a force of men. An at-



East Side Main Street Fire on April 11, 1916

tachment was made and the smoldering ruins of the burned buildings were soaked.

Buildings destroyed included the Tribune newspaper office, J. F. James, O. D. Tibbetts, J. P. Tibbetts, P. D. Armour Hotel, D. P. Slichter, K. P. Hall, F. E. Lawrence, L. P. Sherman, K. G. Foster, H. J. Crutchett, G. S. Perry, Jas. Hanskutt, J. A. Wilson Hardware and Harness, Downing and Lumley building, and two business buildings owned by non-residents. Loss was estimated at \$75,000.

Origin of the fire was unknown, but some persons believed it was set as there was no fire in the Tribune office, and those who were the first at the scene of the blaze said it undoubtedly started on the outside.

The east side business district, spared in 1891, went up in flames April 11, 1916. Block 19, with the exception of Loeffler & Edwards Hardware Store, on the north end of the block and the frame structure occupied by the Felton Store on the south, was destroyed by fire.

The fire began in the rear of the J. P. Moran Barber Shop and the bakery occupied by Ernest Walther at about 3:30 p. m. Its cause—unknown.

Farmers, citizens of the town and the firemen with Chris Luymes, fire chief, united to fight the blaze, but water supply was inadequate and pressure ran down rapidly.

A high southeast wind whipped the flames and although firemen worked furiously, the fire spread rapidly. Business buildings on the west side of the street were also threatened. The F. J. Fenzl Store, Hewitt's Store,

and others were ignited by falling embers which firemen extinguished, but not before damage was done. Intense heat broke plate glass windows and stock damage ranged from trivial to 50 percent at the Hanskutt and Fenzl businesses.

On the east side, losses included at the Felton Store, damaged goods and severely damaged building; Hamm Brewing Co., entire building; T. C. Willis, loss of building and contents; J. P. Barrett, implement warehouse, harness shop and saleroom; James Fenzl, tailor shop; J. P. Moran barber shop; Ernest Walther, bakery, fixtures, etc.; F. E. Arnold, bakery building; Gem Theatre building, owned by H. J. Crutchett, and theatre contents, owned by Otto Raben; T. C. Taylor, merchandise and millinery; H. D. Knight, who lived over the old postoffice building, household effects; Chris Luymes, harness shop; old postoffice building, owned by Hewitt & Edwards; Loeffler & Brown, owners of property occupied by Tim Norton; and Tim Norton, jewelry stock; Loeffler & Edwards, stock damage.

The businessmen rallied, many rebuilt and started again, but fire was again to strike the town. In 1926, four business places were destroyed. The fire which originated in the rear of S. L. Sleister's Cafe, destroyed the cafe, Crutchett's Drug Store, Hewitt's grocery and dry goods store, and the Bussell clothing store, Sunday morning June 13.

Flames were discovered in the cafe and an alarm was turned in about 12:30. The fire spread rapidly from the cafe to Hewitt's store and it was impossible to salvage mer-

chandise. The Bussell Store, which was iron clad, withstood the flames for a time and some of the stock was removed.

Plate glass windows on the Loeffler & Weaver Hardware Store, Tim Norton's Jewelry Store, Chris Luymes Harness Shop, and Hughes Meat Market were broken from the heat of the fire.

For the second time, the Crutchett Drug Store was completely destroyed by fire.

On October 30, 1931, three business places, the Pheifle Meat Market, Montagne Barber Shop, and Edwards Cafe, were destroyed by fire. A gasoline stove exploded in the Edwards Cafe, Friday night about 11:30 p.m. and an alarm turned in. The barber fixtures were the only contents saved; the other buildings were a complete loss.

December 1 of the same year, the K. & K. Co. Store was gutted by fire causing an estimated \$15,000 damage. Three years previously the store had also suffered a severe fire loss.

February 13, 1932, the Johnson Hotel burned to the ground. The building was constructed by the Johnson Brothers in 1898 and was an old land mark. Flames were discovered in the basement. Hotel guests were able to save only the clothing they wore. Watches, pocket books and other valuables were consumed by the fast-moving fire.

Three days later, February 16, the Jas. Hanskutt store was badly damaged and the stock totally destroyed by a fire discovered about 9:30 p.m. Offices on the third floor, occupied by Dr. Frank Boyd and Dr. Frank Mead, were damaged by smoke and water. The Post Office section of the building was unharmed. It was a cold night with the temperature hovering around zero and a cold north wind blowing, but by midnight firemen had the blaze under control.

February 25, 1932, the Felton Store and contents were totally destroyed by fire. Marshal Blair and Jas. Gilkerson were standing in front of the store about 10:30 p.m. and saw the reflection of flames in the Citizen State Bank windows. Before firemen could reach the scene, the rear of the store was a mass of flames.

The March 4, 1932, *Chronicle* adds, "It is claimed that during the fire persons were seen taking flour, candy and dry goods, as

though they were doing no harm and that it was perfectly right to do so."

March 7, 1932, the Malloy Service Station was damaged by fire. March 8, the Peter Ludwigson home burned to the ground and March 9, Mrs. Frank Scott's home was damaged by fire.

Fires became so numerous that according to the *Chronicle*, "Whenever the fire whistle blows, it makes the cold chills run up and down your spine."

March 9, 1934, the Douglas County Roller Mill burned.

In 1952, the Community Congregational Church was completely destroyed by fire, caused by a defect in the furnace. The church was rebuilt on the same site.

On February 27, 1959, a half block of Armour's business district was leveled by fire. Persons returning from the district basketball tournament at Lake Andes saw a reddish glow in the sky.

The fire destroyed McFarland Motor Co. where it was believed to have started, the Fullerton Lumber Co., and the V.F.W. building. Loss was estimated at \$200,000.00. All buildings were located on the south side of West Main Street.

Furniture and supplies were moved from the Blue Moon, McDonald's Plumbing building, and Attorney Leo Hertz's law office.

The awning on Carl Floete's building across the street caught fire several times and windows in the Floete building and Nase Hatchery were broken. At Friendly Gas Company, plastic knobs on appliances in the front show room melted and men moving machines to the back found them almost too hot to handle.

A new 1959 car at McFarland Motors and several older models were destroyed by the fire. At Fullerton's, a new supply of lumber valued at about \$100,000, shipped in for spring building, went up in flames.

Fire departments from Wagner, Delmont, and Corsica assisted the Armour Fire Department in battling the blaze, Armour's most recent major fire.

The Fullerton Lumber Company was rebuilt on the same location, but a new V.F.W. basement building was constructed at another site.

Water Main in 1891 But First Fire Call a Flop

After the first disastrous fire in Armour in January of 1891, when two blocks on the west side of main street burned, Armourites more than ever saw the need of an adequate water supply.

It was at the meeting of May 3, 1891, of the Board of Trustees of Armour that official action was taken. A motion was made to advertise for bids in the *Sioux City Journal* for 3 blocks of 6-in. pipe and laying of the water main in Armour. At the June 3rd meeting of the town trustees, the board accepted the bid of Wood & Granger of Hawarden, Iowa, for the 6-in. pipe and laying of the three-block water main for \$1,025 on main street. The bid included all materials and labor. There were three other bids on the project, but all these were in the \$1200 range. The contract was then signed by the city and the successful bidder was to have the water mains completed by July 15th of that year.

At the June 3rd meeting, a special assessment of 20 cents per foot was levied on lots on each side of main street for the purpose of defraying the expenses of laying the water mains on main street. Also at this meeting, the clerk was instructed to advertise for bids on materials and construction of a hose house.

On June 8, bids for furnishing materials and building a hose house were opened and read with the bid going to Henry Lailey for the amount of \$69.75. The highest bid was for \$90.00.

On August 20, the board met in special session and unanimously accepted the system of water works placed in position by Wood & Granger. The system, while small in extent, was perfect in practical results and afforded adequate fire protection to three-fourths of the entire town. The contractor had little trouble laying the water main. Now that the first three blocks of water mains were in, the town periodically extended the mains as the need occurred.

In September of 1891, the street commissioner was instructed to order two wrenches made to use in opening the water hydrants.

The new water mains and the wrenches and equipment were now ready in case of fire, but as it turned out, organization of men for fighting the fire was lacking.

On Sunday evening, November 29, 1891, about 8:30, the dread cry of fire was heard and with the experience of the previous winter still fresh in the memories of Armourites, it was not long before everyone in town was out and running to the scene of the fire. The Blue Barn, owned by C. O. Knapp and rented to Jas. Liscomb, was found in flames and in a short time burned to the ground. C. O. Knapp had 1,100 bushels of wheat and 300 bushels of oats stored in the barn, which were partly burned and badly damaged. A span of mules owned by Jacob Rhian, a farmer from Charles Mix county, was also lost in the blaze.

It was fully thirty minutes from the first cry of fire before the hose was laid and the water turned on. In the first place, everyone ran to the fire and left the cart in the hose house. When the cart finally arrived, the hose was found to have been reeled on the wrong way, the end which should have been at the hydrant was at the fire over a block away. Finally, no wrench could be found to turn on the water at the hydrant. Needless to say, the *Chronicle* stated the only way to solve these difficulties was "to organize a hose company and have some head to the matter."

At the December 1, 1891, meeting of the town trustees and yielding to petitions, they approved a water trough to be built at the north end of main street with an overflow to keep the water running through the mains at all times. A watering trough was also built on main street east of the well and connected with an inch pipe.

Troubles were not over. The July 16, 1909, *Chronicle* relates, "The water main broke and there was neither water nor beer in town."

In 1919 Armour changed its waterworks. On Monday, March 31, 1919, a special election was held for the issuance of bonds for \$20,000 for the purpose of constructing, equipping, operating and maintaining a system of waterworks, for domestic purposes and fire protection. The waterworks included a steel tower and tank and the construction of new water mains and re-laying and repairing of the old mains. The election carried in favor of issuing the bonds, 143 to 19.

On Tuesday, April 27, 1915, an election was held on the proposition of issuing \$20,000 for the purpose of constructing and maintaining a system of sewerage for the city of Armour. This proposal passed in

favor of issuing the bonds, 182 to 39. An ordinance was then passed pertaining to the sewerage system. Addition to the system has been made during the years as the need arose.

Electricity Proposed for Lights — and Trolley

Early in 1907, meetings and discussions were held in regard to the construction of an electric light plant. One of the men interested was John Absher of Wagner. According to the *Armour Chronicle*, "He purchased the electric light plant at Wagner, organized a corporation in February of 1907 for several hundred thousand dollars and incorporated. Among its features will be the construction and operation of an electric line from here to Wagner with a power plant at either end, the operation of a lighting plant here and the construction of an electric line from here to Lake Andes. The project met with the hearty approval of the citizens of Wagner and Charles Mix County and it would do the same here as an electric light plant at this point, both for public lighting and for private use. The rates at Wagner for lighting purposes are fifty cents per month for eight hundred candle power light, flat rate."

About a week after this, a meeting of the Armourites was called and the sentiment of the meeting was that such an institution was badly needed. If no Armour citizen, or a corporation of Armour citizens would consider the project, then the outsiders should be considered.

Several days later, February 27, 1907, Absher of Wagner met with the Armour citizens. He explained his project for an electric light plant in Armour and the construction of the electric trolley line from here to Wagner. After a thorough discussion, the matter was referred to a committee composed of E. P. Wanzer, J. P. Barrett, and L. D. Wait.

On March 15, 1907, an ordinance, No. 29, was published in the *Chronicle* pertaining to the granting of a franchise for the construction of an electric light plant in Armour by John Absher.

During this period, electric railroads were expected to come into existence in great

numbers in all parts of the country, including this area. In May of 1907, the Wagner, Lake Shore and Armour Electric Railway was incorporated. The incorporators were A. H. Pease, Wagner; John Stransky, Pukwana; John Absher, Wagner; Albert Amunson, Lake Andes; and E. P. Wanzer of Armour.

The company incorporated for \$1,000,000. The headquarters of the railroad were to be at Wagner, with branch offices at Armour and Mitchell. The promoters immediately made application to the county authorities for the use of highways for a term of twenty years and the privilege was granted. There were expectations of connecting the line from Wagner, Lake Andes and Armour to Mitchell, Madison and Minneapolis.

About June 15, the Wagner, Lake Shore & Armour Traction Company met in Armour for the purpose of completing plans for the commencement of necessary buildings, etc. They purchased four lots south of the power house from C. E. Floete and let the contract for the erection of a cement block building, 50 x 60 x 20. The total cost of the plant and equipment was to exceed \$25,000.

According to E. P. Wanzer, the engine purchased for the plant was one of the latest improved 150-horsepower Munenzel gas engines. The power machinery alone weighed 65,000 pounds, the flywheel weighed 18,350 pounds, and the 75-kilowatt generator weighed 7,000 pounds, and was the best make on the market at that time.

The latest improved switch board, with automatic circuit breakers, was installed. For its time it was truly a modern up-to-date electric light plant. The engine for the plant was shipped from Duluth and arrived in Armour on Monday, October 21, 1907. Some of the poles and wire had arrived in Armour and Wagner in preparation of building the lines.

On November 22, about 40 residences and businesses had been wired and men



Water and Electric Power Houses About 1910. The building at the left is still in use today by the city water department. The electric building has been torn down and the lots are now owned by Douglas Electric Coop., Inc., Armour, S. Dak.

were wiring the Johnson House Hotel at that time.

The December 27, 1907, issue of the *Chronicle-Tribune* states, "The electric lights were turned on Thursday for the first time. As a starter the lights gave pretty good satisfaction and will undoubtedly grow better as time goes by. When our citizens have learned by actual demonstration that the lights are a success and that the company will give the people their money's worth, then will many citizens who have been waiting for the demonstration of its value, have the lights installed in their homes."

The October 18, 1907, issue also carried this little item: "The city of Aberdeen is seriously considering the advisability of granting an electric light franchise to the Wagner, Lake Shore and Armour Traction Co., for the installation of a lighting plant. The cost of the new plant as estimated will be about \$150,000 and will be capable of furnishing all night service to business houses and residences"

In January, 1908, the electric light company decided to sink a well of its own by the electric powerhouse and also sunk a large cistern for storage purposes. The company and the city apparently failed to come to some agreement as to water uses and the company made it clear that they would not pump water for the city.

Between 1908 and 1913, some changes of the electric plant took place and during this time it also became known as "The Interstate Power Company."

In March of 1913, F. R. Hale of the Interstate Power Company met with the City

Council, as well as businessmen, and presented his proposition for 24-hour service. Hale was also desirous of having the 15-year franchise changed to a 25-year franchise. He also clearly pointed out that if Armour wanted the installation of a new plant, the first step was to grant him a 25-year franchise.

The City Council then took action on Hale's proposals and after the third reading, had Ordinance 31 printed on April 25, 1913, granting the Interstate Power Company the 25-year franchise and 24-hour service in Armour.

On December 15, 1915, the Interstate Power Company by deed conveyed this franchise with the other property, including the distribution system in Armour and vicinity to Elmer Monsen. On December 28, 1915, Elmer Monsen conveyed this same deed to the South Dakota Light and Power Company. In January of 1916, the South Dakota Light and Power Company of Armour was reorganized with headquarters at Armour.

The change from the one company to the South Dakota Light and Power Co. was made for financial reasons. The officers of the new company were: president, W. H. Burtis, Decorah, Iowa; vice-president and manager, J. F. Cameron, Armour; secretary and treasurer, R. T. Stewart, Chicago, Ill. In 1918 the company was serving the towns of Armour, Wagner, Lake Andes, Geddes, Platte, Scotland, Delmont, Parkston, Tripp, and Ravinia.

In a foreclosure proceeding in Douglas County Circuit Court in 1922, the sheriff sold the franchise of the South Dakota

Light and Power Company, as well as all other property of the power system in Armour and vicinity, to Roy P. Kelly and gave Kelly a certificate of sale.

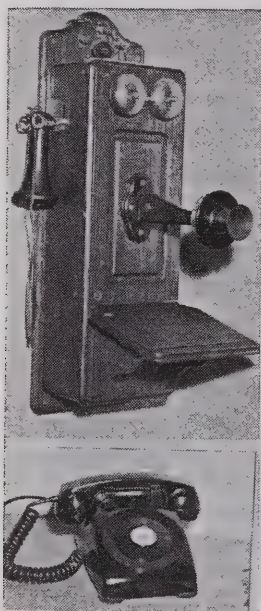
Roy P. Kelly assigned this certificate of sale and all interests in this franchise, together with other property, to the Consum-

ers' Utility Company, in October, 1923.

In 1924, the Northwestern Public Service Company purchased the franchise (Ordinance No. 31) and property connected with the system from the Consumers' Utility Company. Northwestern Public Service is still serving Armour in 1961.

Drug Store Houses First Telephone Exchange

In 1898, efforts were started to have a telephone system in Armour and on October 3, 1898, the town trustees approved an ordinance granting to Rowe Brothers of Pierre, S. Dak., certain rights in the streets and alleys and public places in the city of Armour for the purpose of operating a telephone system or an electric communication wire. The franchise was for five years. The ordinance also stated that the Rowe Brothers should begin erection and construction of poles and wires within thirty days and have a full and complete system for the transmission of messages over said wires on or before January 1, 1899, otherwise this ordinance is to be annulled and void.



The new company immediately began building a long distant line west, between Armour and Edgerton. In January of 1899, the line was completed. The *Chronicle* of Friday, January 6, 1899, stated: "Telephone connections were completed last Saturday between Edgerton and Bloomington and the line has proved a complete success. The ticking of the clock in the Edgerton office could be plainly heard here in Armour. It will prove a great convenience to our neighbors on the west." The telephone exchange was located in the B. W. LaShier & Co. Drug

Store. On Wednesday, January 18, E. C. Ward purchased the entire line from F. B. Rowe and was the sole owner of the lines. According to the *Chronicle*, Armour sent 116 telephone messages to Edgerton and Bloomington during the month of April.

In May of 1899, the poles on the telephone line between here and Delmont were nearly all set and the line was in operation about June 1, 1899. J. A. Rovaart conducted the Delmont end.

Because the Rowe Brothers failed to fulfill the requirements of the first ordinance to build a system in Armour, the town trustees approved a second ordinance on July 6, 1899, granting the franchise to Johnson Brothers for a period of ten years. They immediately started contacting all the businesses and residences for phones and started construction. By November 3, 1899, the local telephone system was completed and in working order. Otto Raben had charge of the central station. On Saturday, December 2, 1899, E. C. Ward completed his telephone line into Wheeler. The line now extended to Bloomington, Edgerton, Jasper and Wheeler in Charles Mix County.

On December 15, 1899, a dozen men arrived in Armour to start work on the Western Electric Telephone Company system. In January of 1900, the company completed its line into Armour and opened a station in Tibbets Drug Store. E. C. Ward moved his booth to the same place and the two long distant lines were presided over by Miss Jessie Fiscus. The Western Electric lines connected Armour with the east and about 100 other towns in South Dakota. The February 9, 1900, issue of the *Chronicle* stated, "Long distance telephone is becoming popular in Armour. In fact, we don't see how we have done without it as long as we have."

In June, 1900, the long distance telephone office moved to the local office in the rear of Raben Drug Store. This was much more convenient to the patrons of both to have them together. In December of 1900, the telephone office moved to the rear of LaShier's new drug store.

Some time after the Johnson brothers

installed the telephone system and before June 1, 1902, E. E. Martin became the owner of the Armour Telephone System. Date of transfer was not available. The May 29, 1902, issue of the *Chronicle* stated that B. W. Burnett of Tyndall and E. E. Martin closed a deal whereby Burnett became the owner of the telephone system here on June 1, 1902. The total amount was for \$4,500 cash.

In 1908, the telephone system was transferred to Ira S. Burnett, son of B. W. Burnett, and it became known as the Armour Telephone Company.

Chief Cook and Bottle Washer, 50 Years Ago

By Charles P. Crutchett

When I was only ten years old, I helped some in the drug store a few times. At twelve years, I had a lot of little chores to do about the business.

Sometimes at 7:00 a. m., as my parents were finishing their last cup of coffee, I was given the wet coffee grounds and sent off to open up the store and sweep out. Wet coffee grounds were the best sweeping compound we had in those days.

On Saturday mornings I got the big kerosene lamps from the long wirehooks that suspended them from the ceiling, filled the bowls with kerosene, trimmed the wicks, and scoured the lamp chimneys with newspapers. One of the periodic jobs at the drug store, also usually done on a Saturday morning, was the washing of a supply of glass bottles.

Pumping a pail of water from the cistern (all stores and homes had cisterns—no city water supply), I would submerge a dozen or more bottles, fill each bottle with water, then shake the water out. The bottles came packed in hay. Often a container would have a wisp of hay inside that would not loosen up and wash out. To meet this contingency, we kept a small bottle full of BB shot. A few of these shot, shaken in the bottle, would promptly loosen any hay or other unwanted objects. We would stand the washed bottles to drain, upside-down, in long rows on the sink or the prescription case. Standing on their necks, these bottles were top-heavy. A careless touch, or just a slight jar, and a

In 1904, there were 133 phones listed in Armour and in 1906 farm lines were added to the system.

Ira Burnett operated the Armour Telephone Company until March 1, 1952, when it was purchased by L. J. Armentrout. It then became known as the Armour Independent Telephone Company. In 1958, Armentrout installed a new switchboard and new phones, replacing the phones that were installed in the early 1900's. During the change-over, both the new and the old switchboards were in operation.

long row of bottles would fall, one after another, like a bunch of tenpins. Sometimes several rows of bottles would collapse and setting them all up again was just one of the small frustrations of the young "bottle-washer."

In the summertime my older brother, Harold, or I had to "get out the ice" each morning. Behind the drug store stood a tall ice house that held about 45 tons of ice. Shoveling off the sawdust which covered this ice, a chunk of the same would be exposed and removed with ice pick and crowbar. When well-chopped, this ice was carried in pails, and by standing on a chair and lifting the pails above our heads, we could dump them into the top of the high, old-fashioned soda fountain.

The big selling drink at the fountain in those days is unheard of today—Sarsaparilla. The soda fountain in those days was for holding soda water only—no ice cream. We froze our own ice cream in the little hand-turned freezers common at that time—about 1904 or 1905. A few years later, we got what was called an "Ice Cream Packer." It was a square box, held a can containing maybe two gallons of ice cream, which, when well-packed with ice, kept in good shape. A large wooden cover gave easy access for dipping the ice cream.

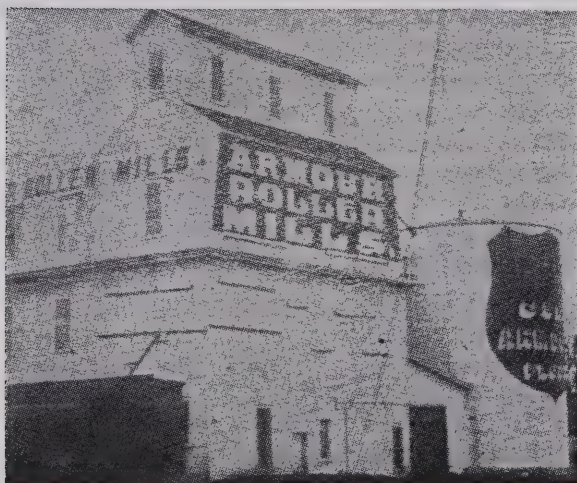
A few years more, and the big "salt and ice" soda fountain came. It would hold several 5-gallon cans of cream. This was a big step forward. Now, the fine electrically-refrigerated soda fountain seems to be well perfected. This may be the last word in fountains for several, or maybe many years to come.

New Roller Mill — 85,000 Lbs. Flour for Indians

June, 1887, brought reports that Armour stood a good chance of having a \$16,000 flour mill. A proposition was made to the citizens which was accepted and the money was pledged for the mill, which incidentally took less than an hour. In March of 1888, the prospects were brightening for the mill in Armour. Two different parties were corresponding with friends whom they thought could be induced to come here. In the meantime, the people of Armour were "to prepare to put their shoulders to the wheel and hop along with the enterprise when called upon."

In May of the same year, the expectations were that Armour would have a steam flouring mill in full force by July 12. "About six weeks before the mill was to be in operation, the grist mill scheme fell through, and the parties to whom the bonus of \$1,000 was offered had not been heard from," according to the *Chronicle*.

This did not stop the enterprising Armourites. On September 14, 1888, another group of mill men accepted the proposition of the businessmen of Armour and telegraphed that they would be here in a week to commence operations. The prospects then were for a \$25,000 mill. On November 16, the machinery for the mill arrived and the installation of the huge quantity of machinery was begun. From then until the end of December, the completion of the mill progressed rapidly. There were as many as twenty-two employed on the building and installation.



Armour Roller Mill, Built in 1888

The definite date of the start of operation of the mill is not certain, but the December 21, 1888, issue of the *Armour Chronicle* states that "the mill is about ready for business and can now use the wheat that the people agreed to donate." It also stated that the people who didn't agree to donate any wheat should "think it over and bring some in the next time they come to town." The promoters boasted that the mill was as good as any in South Dakota, and that "the local wheat grower is the one who is most benefited by the mill."

The mill was built by Boy Peter Raben and his brother, John Raben, at a cost of from \$50,000 to \$60,000.

Another issue of the *Chronicle* stated that Raben and Standard, proprietors of the Armour Roller Mill, were awarded a contract for furnishing the Indians 85,000 pounds of flour on February 22, 1889. They bid against all the old established mills in this vicinity and were successful.

Raben did extensive traveling in the interest of his mill during the time he was associated with the mill.

Builder Raben, after operating the mill for some years, traded it for the P. D. Armour Hotel, which was destroyed by fire two weeks after the deal was made.

The total capacity of the mill is not known but in 1893 the mill had a capacity of over 100 barrels of flour a day. The brands were "Fancy Patent," "White Rose," and "Head Light," using primarily local wheat for the milling. The rate of exchange was 32 pounds of "White Rose" flour for one bushel of wheat in 1906.

On Friday, March 9, 1934, the mill, then known as the Douglas County Mill was destroyed by fire. The mill was then owned by the Hebben Brothers and the origin of the fire, which started about 8:30 p. m. was unknown.

The blaze started when the Region 7 basketball tournament was being played in the Armour High School Auditorium and most of the firemen were attending the games. The flames of the mill spread rapidly and before the firemen arrived, the building was a mass of flames.

At the time of the fire, the mill had not

been in operation for several years and the power lines to the mill had been disconnected. The machinery included a 50-h.p. motor, large gas engine, flour mills, and feed grinder and much other equipment. The owners had planned to tear the mill down the following spring and salvage the machinery and the used lumber.

During the last 35 years of the mill's operation, it passed through the hands of several owners and there were only occasional periods when the mill paid for operating expenses.

As most everything else, there were some humorous incidents during the time the roller mill ran its course.

The November 6, 1906, issue of the *Chronicle* stated, "A whistle was installed at the mill and is heard at regular intervals. It will be a guide for laboring men and others at all times. It will sound the time for commencement of work, noon hour and six o'clock. There will no need of clocks or watches in the future."

Several weeks later, the *Chronicle* stated, "Many of the natives have become accustomed to the blowing of the whistle at its regular hours." Once the engineer was gone for a time and the remainder of the staff failed to do a proper job of blowing the whistle and this prompted one of the *Chronicle* readers to write the editor a letter:

"Dere editur . . . Whats thee matter with hour mill whistel. when it begun you sed thar would be no nead of clocks or some sich like and on the strenkth of them wurd's i sold mine. I only got 85 cense fur it but I wanted a hole doler and the feller tuk it up white River—tuk the clock I mene—an now the ternal thing aint blowin—the whistler of coarse. Now look a here tom I Dont want nothin cept whats fair an right but i thin justice demans yew make thar whistel blow or gim me a doler ter get anuther klok sence it was yore falt i sole my uthern.

Yours serely

Ruben B Kumtitown

Pust skreep—meck er toot tom."

Lots Sold in Armour for Townsites Of Platte, Geddes, Wagner

In January and February, 1900, the towns of Platte, Geddes, and Wagner were platted and the sale of lots by the C. M. & St. P. Railroad were held in Armour. The sale dates were Wednesday, March 21, for Geddes; Thursday, March 22 for Platte; and Friday, March 23 for Wagner. For the event, the Milwaukee railroad ran three sleepers to Armour that stayed here during the sale of the lots. The rooms in the Hotel Johnson were all engaged.

Promptly at 3:30, Wednesday afternoon, C. A. Padley, the townsite agent of the Milwaukee railroad, stepped upon the platform at the courthouse in Armour and facing a crowd of about 500 men, announced that the sale of lots in the new towns on the extension of the road in Charles Mix County was about to commence and that the first town to be sold would be that of Geddes. Six lots on main street were reserved from the sale—four of which were for a \$6,000 hotel which the railroad had closed a contract for construction and two were for the offices of the townsite company. He then stated that the terms of the sale would

be as follows: \$200 for corner lots on main street and \$150 for inside lots; \$100 for corner resident lots and \$75 for inside lots. The choice of lots were to be sold at auction and the bonus added to the cost of the lots. A 10% discount was given for cash and those desiring to buy on time would be compelled to pay one-third down and one year's time would be given on the balance at six per cent interest.

With this brief statement, Mr. Padley then introduced the auctioneer. The honor of buying the first lot was secured by James Hanskutt of Armour, who ran the bonus up to \$140 before it was sold to him. Adding this to the price of the lot, Jim paid \$340 for the corner lot. The total sale of lots at Geddes amounted to \$10,020.

The lot sales of Geddes, Platte and Wagner were termed as a complete success according to officials.

Shortly after the sale, several loads of railroad graders arrived in Armour for work on the railroad extension going to the new towns.

Lot sales for the town of Lake Andes took place on May 18, 1904, at Lake Andes.

\$600 Awards for First Armour Fair Held in 1906

On Friday, July 6, 1906, a meeting of the businessmen of the city was held in the Slettebak Hall for the purpose of discussing and ascertaining what could be done toward establishing a county fair that fall. About 50 people were present and evidenced interest in the movement. A. U. Hoon, president of the businessmen's association, briefly stated the nature of the meeting. Mayor J. P. Barrett was then elected the chairman of the meeting and F. G. Hoffman, secretary.

On the following Monday evening, July 9, another meeting was held and the committee reported that they had met with the County Commissioners. The Commissioners granted the committee \$500 to be applied for the use of premiums in exhibits at the fair, provided that the citizens of Armour raised another \$100 for the same purpose.

A ways and means committee was appointed to confer with the driving park association for the purpose of devising the

best means of attaining buildings for the fair grounds. On Tuesday evening, July 17, the committee, comprised of C. H. Brown, E. P. Wanzer and Henry Moore, reported that they had been remarkably successful. They had received donations of \$1,000 for the erection of buildings on the fair grounds for the housing of the exhibits at the county fair, and \$100 to match the \$500 the County Commissioners agreed to donate. The \$600 was set aside for awards on all kinds of stock, poultry, vegetables, fruit, cooking, fancy work, and grain.

During the week of August 14th, the buildings on the fair grounds were started and were completed about four weeks later. Then on September 19, 20 and 21, 1906, the first fair was held for three days.

In 1915, a committee interested in the fair grounds purchased the mortgage upon the Douglas County Fair grounds and then turned it over to the city. A portion of the land was broken and then planted to trees.



FAIR EXHIBIT

Bond for \$2,000 to Build First Schoolhouse

The first term of school in Armour began Monday, December 20, 1886. A committee had been appointed to provide a school and had made arrangements to have classes held in the Congregational Church. Miss Lora Stockwell (who later married H. B. Mead) was the first teacher. The church had been moved to Armour from Grand View, November 29, 1886. It is now remodeled into a home and owned by Mrs. Mildred Catherman.

In 1887, according to the *Chronicle*, "The election held in Armour, Monday, August 22, 1887, on the question of bonding for \$2,000 to build a new school house, was quiet, only 39 votes cast. There were 38 for and 1 against. Now let the school board get to the front and give us a good school house, not a barn." This election was later ruled invalid due to informality and another election was held, also favorable to school bonding.

The Board of Directors advertised for sealed bids for four school house bonds of \$500, each bearing 7% interest, payable semi-annually, maturing in 1902. The Citizen's Bank was the successful bidder for the bonds with a bid of \$2,040.

Building began. On Friday, November 25, 1887, the *Chronicle* said, "The Armour School Board accepted the new school house, Saturday and paid the contractor \$2,400 for it.

The building is cheap for the money and a credit to the town. The present term of school expires today and the new term with E. P. Wanzer as teacher will be in the new building commencing the first week in December." Mr. and Mrs. Wanzer both taught terms of school.

The old school became inadequate and on January 17, 1907, bids were let for the construction of a larger school. W. G. Murton of Emerson, Nebraska, was the successful bidder for \$25,340. The foundation of the building was to be of Sioux Falls granite, the upper structure of Twin City pressed brick, with Kettle River stone facing. Completion date was set for September 1, 1907.

School was let out April 30 to enable Contractor Murton to get started. The May 7 *Chronicle* relates, "A gang of men started to cut the old school in two, Tuesday morning, preparatory to removing same to Odd Fellows' lots on North Main." This school building is now the Odd Fellows' Hall.

But when September came, the new school was not completed. School began September 16 in helter-skelter locations. The first grade class was held in the old school which had been moved; second grade met in the Christian Church; grades 3-8 met in the Odd Fellows' Lodge room; and high school classes were held at the courthouse.

On January 10, 1908, the school board accepted the school building "at the hand



Armour Grade School



Armour High School

of Contractor Murton." The board entered a claim against Murton for \$1300 for failing to complete the building in time. Murton claimed the amount of the contract default should have been \$750. They compromised at \$953 for compensation.

May 26, 1908, the Armour Public School was damaged by a cyclone. The tall chimneys on the new school were blown down and crashed through the roof to the basement. Damage was estimated at \$3,000 to \$5,000. Streets were full of water and hail, and winds were up to 75 miles per hour.

The present high school was built in 1926. Bids were let July 20, 1926. Peter Kuypers of Platte was awarded the building contract for \$38,150. J. Raben of Armour received

the plumbing, heating and ventilating contract for \$8,970.

Armour Public Schools offered a complete twelve-year course for the first time in 1905 when J. W. Jackson was superintendent. On May 18, 1906, at 8:00 o'clock at the Opera House, the first class to graduate from the complete twelve-year course was awarded diplomas by James Carlon, president of the Board of Education. Members of the class were Ruth Booher, Howard F. Cline, and Nellie Taylor. Courses that first class took were Latin, physics, English Literature, and a course called "review."

Armour High School has been accredited by the North Central Association of Teachers Colleges and Secondary Schools since 1919.

June 24, 1887, *Chronicle*: "The race track has been plowed and the sod removed making an A No. 1 track. . . . Bring your running and trotting horses to Armour on the Fourth. Liberal prizes will be offered. The farmers in the vicinity of Armour are donating their services and helping put the race track in shape. . . . The farmers in the west part of the county claim they are going to walk away with the money in the running races, the Fourth."

Nov. 13, 1891, *Chronicle*: "The citizens have at last woke up to the fact that it was very necessary to have fire breaks and in a body turned out Friday night and again Monday and burned good breaks almost all around town. We all feel easier now."

The Thimble Club was an early afternoon and dinner club in Armour for ladies. Many of the first residents belonged to it many years. Daughters and daughters-in-law of members were also invited to join.

First Library in 1902 Started With 387 Volumes



Dedication of Library at Armour

Armour's first public library and reading room was opened in January of 1902, although a mill levy for "Library Fund" had begun in 1899. Older residents of the city recall that the library was located in the building which is now Mrs. Beckman's home.

From February 1 to April 25, 1902, 224 persons borrowed 1240 books. The library was open every week-day evening from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

The first library contained 387 volumes, dailies and several magazines. Long-time residents recall that there was no official librarian. Several persons donated their time and served as librarian.

But hot chicken pie suppers, bread sales and dances sponsored by the ladies of the library board did not provide enough money to keep the library on a sound financial basis. Later, the library was moved to the rear of H. J. Crutchett's Drug Store and was used by very few persons.

In 1914, Mrs. E. P. Wanzer was appointed chairman of the Library Board, with W. J. Barloon and Eli Thomas as members of the board by the City Council. On March 16, 1914, a letter was read at the board meeting from Mr. Andrew Carnegie who agreed to donate \$7500 for the erection of a library building. Lots for the library cost

\$850 and the Library Board paid \$265 with the City of Armour donating the balance.

William Moore moved a barn off the lots so construction could begin. Wm. Steele of Sioux City was the architect and Albert Frieberg, contractor from Lake Andes, S. Dak., agreed to construct the building for \$7285, complete.

Mrs. Wanzer had visited several libraries and found many library basements so damp they were unusable. Wm. Moore had built the house north of the library and advised her to have the library basement not more than three feet under street level. Leonard Brown hauled 38 loads of dirt at 30 cents a load to fill in the lawn.

The new building was officially dedicated June 25, 1915. State Librarian Lilly Borreson spent a week assisting in the opening. All business places were closed from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Music was by the band and the quartette; invocation was by Rev. T. C. Williams; presentation of the library to the city by Mrs. E. P. Wanzer; response by Mayor Ruel Dana; and the main address by Pres. Robert Slagle of Vermillion.

Mrs. Minnie Raben was appointed the first librarian, June 12, 1915. Her salary was \$30 per month. Miss Margaret Mead was assistant librarian. Roy Raben, the first janitor, received \$10 a month.



LIBRARY DEDICATION

Top row on steps, left to right: Rev. Williams, Congregational Church; President Slagle, University of South Dakota; Eli Thomas; Lilly Borreson, State Librarian; R. E. Dana, Mayor; Albert Frieberg, Contractor; Mrs. E. P. Wanzer, George Hagen. Bottom row: Councilmen, R. Slettebak, H. J. Crutcheit, Felton, Date Raben, George Palmer, and J. E. Boot.

G. E. Hagen and Mrs. Ira Burnett were appointed to the library board in 1915, increasing board membership to five. Since that time, five have served on the board.

The basement room of the library became a work house for Red Cross projects during World War I. Women gathered to knit, roll bandages and help with other projects.

Mrs. Wanzer, who served on the library board until her death in 1931, willed the library a \$500 bond. Interest from the bond is used to purchase books.

Members of the 1961 Library Board are Mrs. Anetta Polkinghorn, chairman; Mrs. Elmer Green, secretary-treasurer; Mike Car-

mody, Mrs. Maynard Goehring, and Mrs. Lloyd Tranter.

Librarians who have served include Mrs. Minnie Raben, 1915-1919, Miss Margaret Mead, assistant; Miss Marion Crutchett, 1919-1920; Mrs. Ricketts, 1920-1923; Mrs. Lily Montgomery served as temporary librarian the summer of 1922; Mrs. S. R. Wallis, 1923-1934; Mrs. Bertha Carter, 1934-1947, when she was killed in an auto accident; Mrs. Montgomery again served as temporary librarian until Mrs. Loyd Edwards was appointed in 1948 and served until 1949; Mrs. Walter Palmer, 1949-1950; Mrs. Edna Fiscus, 1950-1953; Mrs. Mamie Hagen, 1953 until her death in 1961; and Mrs. H. A. Catherman, the present librarian.

Nov. 6, 1891, *Chronicle*: "A prairie fire down by the water tank last Friday destroyed some grain and hay for one of the Breitbach boys and burned one of the Treibwassers out slick and clean. The train was stopped and all hands helped fight the fire for over an hour. It is supposed to have started from a spark from the engine as the train went down."

First Fire Company in 1892: First Ball in 1893

The first meeting of the Armour Volunteer Fire Company was held on January 6, 1892. This was after the first water mains were laid in the summer of 1891 and the additional fire fighting equipment was purchased. However, it took a fire that destroyed a barn in the fall of 1891 which caused a lot of confusion that it finally became evident some type of organization was necessary in order to fight fires effectively.

At the first meeting, C. E. Huston was elected chief, P. A. Carter was elected secretary, and S. C. Shaw, the treasurer. A committee was then appointed to assist the chief in drafting a constitution and by-laws. They were Geo. J. Sly and P. A. Carter. On January 13, the firemen met again and then adopted the constitution and by-laws.

After the group was organized, the company made numerous practice runs and on August 17, 1892, the organized company made its first live run. It was called out at 2:30 p. m. to a small fire at the rear of the H. J. Crutchett Drug Store in a pile of boxes. It was only a small blaze and the hose was back in the house in less than twenty minutes, according to the records of the company.

Jas. A. Wilson, S. C. Shaw, A. P. Marvin, Jas. Bracha, W. B. Ensley, H. J. Crutchett, P. A. Carter, T. E. Shaw, Geo. J. Sly, A. H. Pease, Peter T. Peterson, W. A. Christiance,

M. C. Kanouse, C. E. Huston, and R. T. Hargrove represented the first group of volunteer firemen. During the year, others were added to the force.

January 4, 1893, the Fire Department had its first annual ball. The total amount received was \$69.00. Total expenses amounted to \$18.05, leaving a net of \$50.95. The Firemen's ball is still being held once a year, just before the New Year.

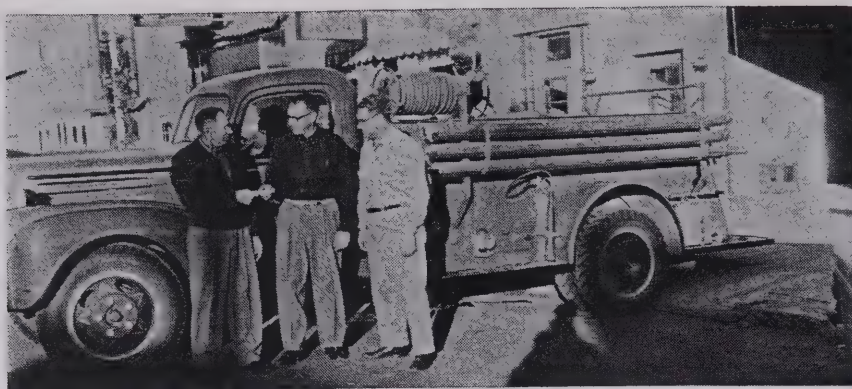
False alarms occurred occasionally. According to the records of the secretary, "A false alarm of fire was given at 7:10 p. m., March 4, 1896, which called out the Fire Department. After running about three blocks, it was discovered to be a chimney burning out in the southeast part of town."

The February 7, 1896, issue of the *Chronicle* also reported this little item. "A dense volume of smoke was seen issuing from the Bob Kennedy's place, Wednesday morning, and an alarm of fire was given. The fire company responded promptly only to find Bob trying to thaw out a water pipe. While the boys did him no good, Bob said he appreciated their prompt response and invited them down to Jackson's to an oyster supper that evening."

Prior to the January, 1892, official firemen's organization, a hose company had been formed in May of 1891. This was be-



Armour Fire Department (About 1892 or 1893)



TODAY'S ARMOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT. The truck was purchased in 1957 and presented to the Department by E. C. Green, Mayor, left. Accepting for the Department were R. L. Plowman and "Case" Hungate.

fore the water mains were installed. Some equipment was purchased but it was of little use before the mains were installed and as a result the company functioned poorly. After the mains were laid and before the January, 1892, organization, the fire alarm sounded in November of 1891 and everyone went to the fire, leaving the hose cart in the hose house. After the cart arrived at the scene of the fire, the hose was reeled on wrong. Finally, after getting the hose laid, the

wrench to open the hydrants was missing. All this took about 30 minutes before the water was turned on—by then the building was burned to the ground.

About 1938, the Community Club, then headed by B. T. Boylan, sponsored a drive for a rural fire truck. Shares were sold to farmers and businessmen to buy a truck and equipment for use on rural fires. The new city building, constructed in 1954, now houses both the city and rural fire trucks.



EARLY SETTLERS. Front row, left to right: Frank Piak, George Hand, Emil Schrank, George Reed. Back row: Charles Bussell, Herman Schrank, Herman Voss, Harry Faugender, Ed Lester, Peter Meyer, Charles Crutchett, and Frank Brown.

Julius Gerioux Believed Owner of First Gas Buggy

According to Adda B. Edward's "Bricks Without Straw," the first Armour resident to own a "gas buggy" was Julius Gerioux. According to the February 21, 1908, *Chronicle*, "Julius Gerioux didn't do a thing last week but hike over to Sioux Falls and buy a fourteen-horsepower auto buggy. Same was delivered here last Friday by C. Giles and Mr. Gerioux, the vehicle being brought overland." The machine was regarded as one of the best on the market and manufactured by the International Harvester Company.

The July 24, 1908, *Chronicle* remarked with awe that "it is nothing for Julius to make a drive of from fifty to seventy-five miles *before* breakfast." It also related that on the way to Lake Andes a couple of teams would not give him "half a show for his share of the road compelling him to go out into sloughs and ponds." At another time the same team with another team and wagon was there but Mr. Gerioux "had been horsed enough." He guided his machine along side the team which became badly frightened, upsetting the wagon and driver.

Barns Donated to County 4-H Clubs

On February 1, 1961, Elmer Dubes and Elmer Green donated two barns to the Douglas County 4-H Clubs. The barns, one 30 x 40 and the other 26 x 40, were moved to the fair grounds north of the City on February 6th.

The barns will be used by the 4-H Clubs of the county for livestock exhibits during their Achievement Days held in August of each year.

The new place, with its ample parking space and the two barns, will serve as an ideal Achievement Day location and in the future other buildings will be added to house the girls' projects, as well as the garden exhibits and other displays and a meeting room.

In the past, the Douglas County exhibits have been located in several parts of the City, causing some confusion, especially when the livestock exhibits were held in the county sheds along Highway 281.

The two buildings were moved from a vacant farm located between Armour and Geddes. The buildings were repaired and

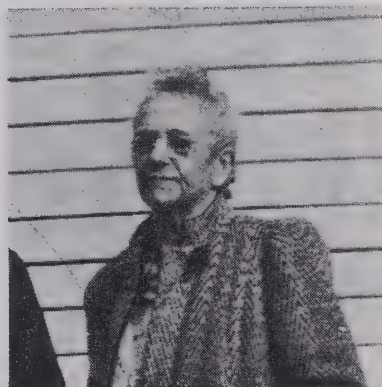
painted during the spring and summer in preparation for the Achievement Days in August.

Much of the repair work and painting was done by volunteer labor donated by people interested in the further development of the 4-H Clubs in the County.

Myrtle Armour Warner, First White Child Born in Armour

Although the first newspaper printed in Armour, June 29, 1886, chronicles the birth of a "bouncing baby boy born to Mr. and Mrs. H. Warner," it was really a bouncing baby girl.

The first white child born in Armour, June 27, 1886, was named Myrtle Armour Warner. Her father, Hiram Warner, filed on a farm in Section 31, Lincoln Twp. in 1881. He built the first frame house there and had the lumber hauled in by horses and wagons from Michigan. The farm was later owned by Joe Welk. The Warners moved to Armour in 1886 where he did carpenter work. They moved away when Myrtle was six weeks old.

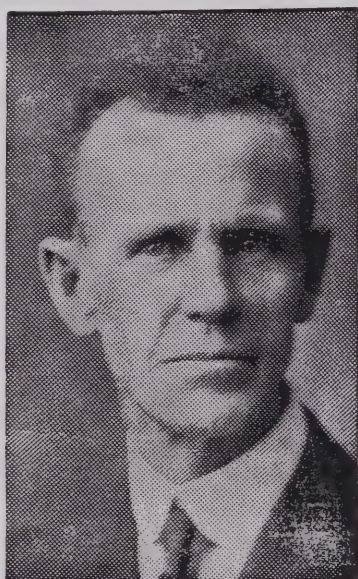


Myrtle Armour Warner
Michels

Myrtle Armour Warner married John Michels. She died at the age of 61 in 1948 at her home in Bloomingdale, Mich. Her husband now lives south of Bloomingdale. Their children include Max, John Jr., Naoma and Mrs. Frank Carpenter. Daughter Pauline McWherter is deceased.

Chronicle First Douglas County Newspaper

Thomas B. Roberts purchased the Chronicle from George Matthews in 1885. Matthews, according to Wm. Pease, in May, 1882, published the first newspaper in Frank Manbeck's calf pen, near where Delmont is located. As soon as Matthews could get a claim shanty built, he moved it to his homestead where it was published from June until after the November, 1882, election, when he moved to Grand View. The Chronicle was the first newspaper printed in Douglas County.

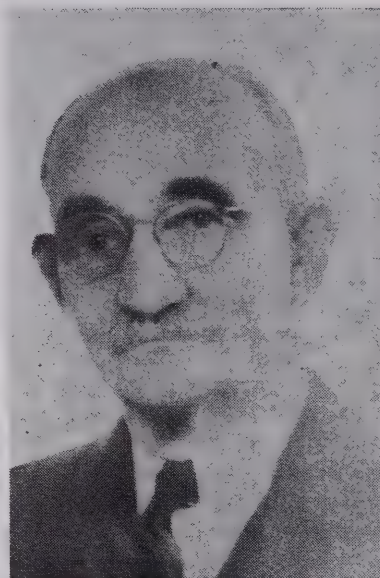


T. B. Roberts, Sr.

T. B. Roberts moved the Chronicle to Armour in 1886 and printed the first paper there on June 29, 1886. In February, 1893, the Tribune newspaper of Armour was purchased and absorbed by the Chronicle.

In 1901, Elmer Bowers purchased the Chronicle and operated it until 1902. He had learned the printing business at an early age and worked at the trade in every state in the Union. Later he became an R. F. D. mail carrier and served until his retirement about 1935. His wife was Hasona Bloom and lives in Seattle with her son. They had three sons: Holland, who is also in the printing business; Keith, in the insurance business in Chicago; and Raymond, who is teaching in Madison, Wisc.

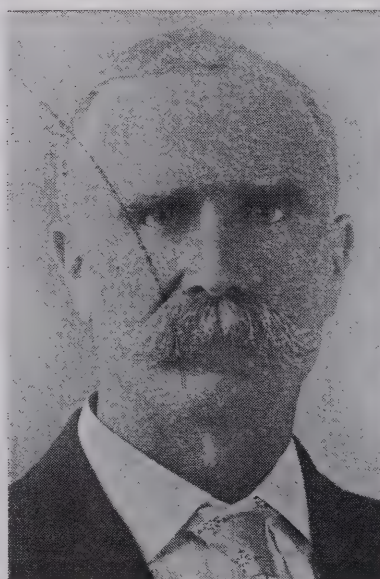
Eli Thomas became owner of the Chronicle in 1902, and June 23, 1909, he moved the



Elmer Bowers

business into a new block building in Armour, now the Blue Moon. This was the era of "free press" and Eli had heated debates with the editors of the Herald and other newspapers.

Wesley Dunbar, who had been foreman since 1908 for Eli, purchased the Chronicle in 1928 and operated it until May 1, 1950. Mrs. Dunbar, "Matt," also worked in the office with her husband and is still a re-



Eli Thomas



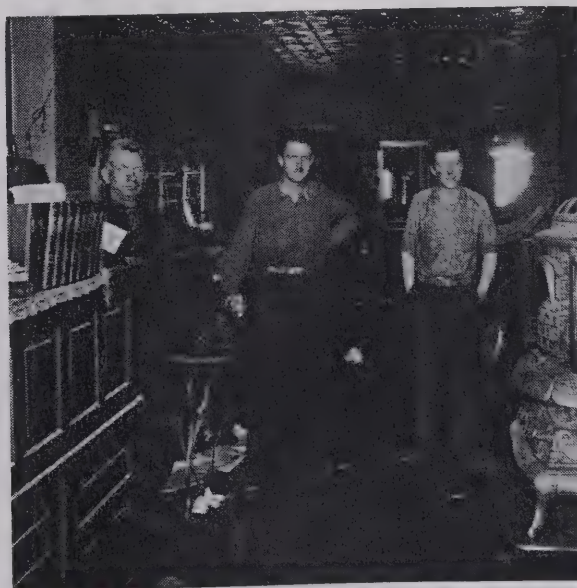
Wesley Dunbar



Maynard Goehring

porter for the Chronicle. Wes remembers when all type was set by hand requiring many hours of night labor. In August of 1940, Wes bought out the Herald, which was started in Harrison in January, 1889, and moved to Armour in July 1889, and in September of 1940 publication of the Herald was suspended. After he had sold the paper, Wes also operated the press on Wednesday for the Goehring.

Maynard Goehring, present publisher, purchased the Chronicle from the Dunbars in 1950. In January, 1954, he moved the paper into a new building on east main. Among new equipment added has been an automatic Kluge press, a new linotype, a folding machine, new office equipment and darkroom equipment. In 1954, he married Arleen Rus, who is now associated with the Chronicle.



Wes Dunbar, H. P. Howard,
Gar Lewis (About 1930)

Douglas County Memorial Hospital



DOUGLAS COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

About 700 persons attended the dedication, Sept., 1957, at Armour.

Civic minded organizations and individuals had recognized the need of hospital facilities and after voluntary contributions and work, the upstairs of the Hanskutt Building on West Main was converted to the Armour Hospital in 1950. In 1954, it was apparent a hospital building, with added facilities, would be needed, and work was begun on a county hospital project. In 1955, an election was held on a proposal that the county use not more than \$60,000 of the funds in the Permanent School Refunding Fund. Voters of the county approved the authorization with over 60 percent voting in favor of construction of a county hospital.

After consulting architects and officials of the state hospital association, it was apparent more money was needed. Armour

citizens then raised \$35,000 in cash through voluntary contributions and conducted many fund-raising activities, and Armour Hospital equipment, worth about \$15,000, was also turned over to the county hospital fund. The complete total was then matched by Hill-Burton federal funds, making the total amount available for construction about \$200,000.

Construction was begun in July, 1956, and the 20-bed hospital was dedicated Sept. 9, 1957. The dedication address was given by John C. Foster, executive secretary of the South Dakota Medical Association. Over 700 persons toured the hospital. Patients were moved from the old Armour Hospital to the new county hospital, September 11, and volunteers also moved equipment.



ARMOUR CITY BUILDING

At the April 21, 1953, election, 183 voted for and 12 against using \$20,000 of city liquor store profits to construct a city building. The building, located on East Main, was completed and moved into in January, 1954. It is 50 x 80, built of cement block and brick, and houses the City Liquor Store, Ladies' Rest Room, Fire Department trucks and equipment, City Office, Council Room, and two-cell Jail.

Douglas Electric Cooperative, Incorporated

The Douglas Electric Cooperative, Inc., was incorporated on June 18, 1946. An organizational meeting was held July 12, 1946, at James R. Bandy's office. Original incorporators and the first Board of Director members were Dick Vis, president; L. W.



Schumacher, vice president; Fred S. Kaufman, secretary-treasurer; Isaac C. DeVellder; R. R. Clark; and first project attorney, James R. Bandy. Harry Vander Luit has also served on the Board.

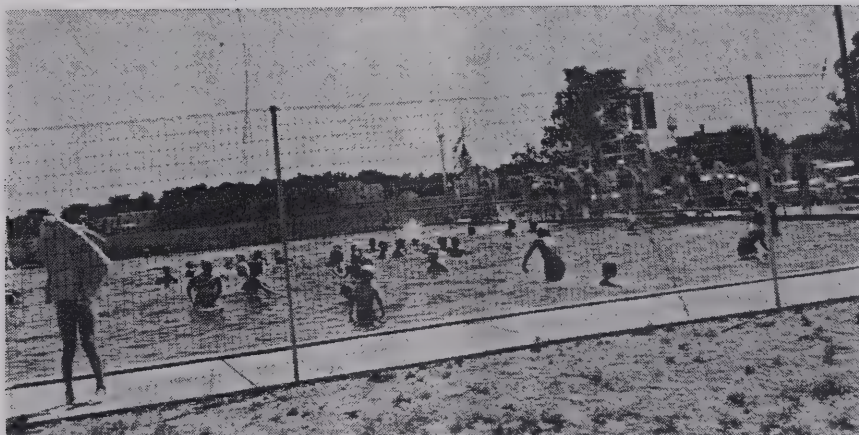
Construction of the distribution lines was

started in June, 1948, and energization of the first lines took place in June, 1949.

Douglas Electric Cooperative, Inc., was moved into a new office building, one block south of the water tower, from the third floor office of the Court House, on September 26, 1951. The cooperative is presently serving 900 member consumers.

Managers who have served since the beginning are F. C. Holmberg, D. W. Stahly, D. L. Thorsett, and Roger F. Johnson, present manager.

The present Board of Directors includes Wayne C. Clark, president; John H. Hubers, Jr., vice president; Fred S. Kaufman, secretary-treasurer; John H. Teeselink and Herbert Wenzel. Present employees are Roger F. Johnson, manager; Harry Christie, line superintendent; Duane Kuyper and Frank DeGeest, linemen; Gary Ellsworth, groundman; Helen King, bookkeeper - office supervisor; Marlys Anderson, cashier and assistant bookkeeper; and W. C. Zeitner, project attorney.



ARMOUR MUNICIPAL SWIMMING POOL, located on the site of the former tennis court at Lake Alcazar, was built in 1953 with donated labor and city funds. The 48 x 100 ft. pool was filled with water June 8, 1953, and Miss Darlene Nase was the first Red Cross swimming instructor. It was one of the first modern pools to be built in the area and was used by several communities. Many improvements have been made during the years.

CHURCHES

St. George's Catholic Church

By Rev. James Wolf

St. George's parish was established in 1886. In the summer of 1887, a small church was built in the east part of town, south-east of the present courthouse site. The members who built this church were Frank Harrington, Mrs. D. L. Beardsley, Mrs. Frank Newbauer, Dan Ohern, and Valentine Vey.

The parish was attended from Mitchell until 1891 and then attached to Parkston and the priests from Parkston served the parish until 1895. The first resident priest was the Rev. Eugene O'Sullivan, who had charge of the parish from 1895 to 1896. Following him were Rev. T. F. Stanton, 1896-1898; Rev. W. S. O'Meara, 1898-1903; Rev. William Carey, 1903-1961; Rev. James Wolf, who came in 1961, is presently serving the parish.

Father Carey came to Armour in 1903 and spent his entire priestly life as pastor of St. George's Church. A man of solid faith, strong character, and deep love of his people, he made a lasting impression upon all whom he guided and with whom he came in

contact. The history of the parish is necessarily and intimately related to him.

The Rev. Noel Power assisted Father Carey in his care of the parish from 1954 to 1959. He was assisted from then until his death, on January 15 of this year, by the Rev. Norbert Rader.

Seventeen pews were purchased for that first little church in 1899 for \$62. During that year, under the leadership of Father O'Meara, the present church property was acquired and the rectory built. The building materials were purchased from the Fullerton Lumber Company for \$800 and the parish house was constructed and furnished for less than \$2100.

By 1902, the little church was crowded and the parishioners, under the guidance of Father O'Meara were determined to build a church that would be adequate to take care of continued growth. Samuel McCormick of Armour began construction in April of that year. By October, the church was completed, furnished and dedicated. The total cost of the edifice was a little over \$7,000. Thus, under the leadership of Father O'Meara, the buildings which have served the parishioners of St. George's parish for almost sixty years were erected.

St. Peter Lutheran Church

St. Peter Lutheran Church was organized May 4, 1902, by interested Lutherans at a meeting at the Samuel Irion home. The model constitution for Lutheran congregations, issued by the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Iowa and other states, was adopted. From 1902-1912, the congregation was served by neighboring pastors.

April 10, 1904, the congregation of 15 families decided to build a church. Marcus Lau donated three acres of land and the church was built that year. In 1911, a bell was procured, which has been in continuous use since that time.

A parsonage was built in 1911 and in 1912 the congregation extended a call to Pastor H. Kovar, who served until 1915. Pastor F. Lehner served from 1915-1918. In 1919 Pastor P. Bunge was called. During his ministry, a new church was built in 1924, which was dedicated in August. He organized a



St. George's Catholic Church
(Inset: Father Carey)



St. Peter Lutheran Church

Luther League in 1920 and a Ladies Aid in 1924. His successor was Pastor Wm. Simpfer, who served until 1947.

Pastor J. Heber began his ministry on April 1, 1948. After his death, July 20, 1954, Pastor H. Haase was called. Records of the Emmanuel Lutheran Church were placed in the care of St. Peter Lutheran after the Emmanuel Lutheran Church disbanded. Pastor Haase retired in May, 1959, and the congregation called Pastor Theo. Dockter. He was installed after his graduation on July 19, 1959, by the Dakota District President, Rev. George Unruh, D.D.

The congregation includes 238 baptized and 164 communicant members. Six sons of the congregation have entered the Holy Ministry: Rev. Andrew Zietner, Rev. Carl Fink, Rev. Arnold Bunge, Rev. Waldemar Storm, Rev. Marvin Hartmann, and Rev. Martin Haase.

Grand View Reformed Church

(From Anniversary Book written by Mrs. Arie Hoekman.)

The Grand View Reformed Church was organized in May, 1885, at Grand View. Meetings were held in the school house until June, 1887, when the Methodist Church building at Grand View, including all the furniture, was purchased for \$1,000. Rev. F.

J. Zwemer, missionary of the Classis of the Reformed Church, served the church from its beginning until August, 1889, when Rev. Wm. Pool was ordained. Reverend Pool served until November, 1890. Several members conducted services during absences of ministers. Rev. Zwemer served again from 1890-92.

In June of 1892, the church was completely destroyed by a cyclone which did considerable damage in Grand View, but it was immediately rebuilt by the members. Church services continued in the Holland language until Dec. 1, 1932, when the consistory was petitioned to have more English services. Holland services were then conducted every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. with English services at 1:30 p.m., followed by Sunday School and Christian Endeavor for young people at 7:30 p.m.

The 1930's were the depression period of drouth, grasshoppers, and bank failures. Rev. Harry Reinhart, the pastor, donated a large amount of his salary to the church. Relief was received from churches in Iowa in the form of food, seed and clothing. In November, 1930, the church building was destroyed by fire. A committee was appointed to purchase the German Lutheran Church at Hillside, and it was moved to Grand View.

In 1950, it was decided to move the church and parsonage to Armour, and in September



Grand View Reformed Church

the buildings were moved to their present site. The church was rededicated on Sept. 6, 1951, and many improvements were made in the church and parsonage. In 1955, an organ was donated to the church by the Fellowship Club. In 1958, a junior choir was organized by Mrs. Verlin Vander Werff, and that same year the pulpit and center aisle were carpeted. In 1960, new chancel furniture was dedicated.

Pastors who have served the church include Rev. F. J. Zwemer, 1887-1888; Reverend Pool, 1889, 1890; Rev. F. J. Zwemer, 1890-1892; Rev. Wm. Steglman, 1892-1897; Rev. Jacob Brummell, 1900-1906; Rev. Matthias Duvan, 1907-1910; Rev. Herman Tanis, 1911-1915; Rev. Louis Benes, 1916-1922; Rev. John DeBeer, 1923-1927; Rev. Harry E. Reinhart, 1928-1935; Rev. Albert Baker, 1936-1943; Rev. Russell Esveld, 1945-1950; Rev. Jack Hilbrand, 1951-1954; Rev. R. Dykstra, 1954-1957; Rev. A. Meyer, 1957-1960; and the present pastor, Rev. James Brinkhuis, came in 1961.

Redeemer Lutheran Church

The "mother" church of the Redeemer Lutheran Church and the St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church was the former St. Paul's Evangelical Church, located seven miles west and two miles south of Armour. Rev. C. J. Messerli began mission work there in 1898. Later, under the leadership of Rev. C. Wieting of Delmont, the congregation was organized in 1904.

Rev. H. H. Stanke held services for the first time on March 10, 1935. A church building was rented from the Episcopalians and in 1944, the building was purchased. This project was named Redeemer Lutheran Church and in 1941, under Rev. G. C. Kohlstedt, the congregation was formally organized under the name of Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession.

In 1954, the St. Paul congregation was disbanded and many of its members joined Redeemer Lutheran. The St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery Association was also formed. Today, the parish includes Redeemer Lutheran in Armour and the St. Peter Church in Corsica. The St. Paul Church bell is now used at Redeemer Lutheran.

On May 6, 1945, the dedication of the remodeled church building took place, but it became apparent that membership increase and the need for additional Sunday



Redeemer Lutheran Church

School facilities would demand larger facilities. In 1948, a "Building Fund" was included as an item in the church budget. It became a sizable sum and in 1953, voters set a goal of three years for a new building. During this period, a drive for funds took place.

Ground-breaking for the new building took place on April 13, 1958, with the cornerstone laying on Oct. 19, 1958. The last service was held in the old church on Dec. 21, 1958, and the first service in the basement of the new church on Dec. 24, 1958.

On June 14, 1959, the new church building, valued at \$100,000 was dedicated. The seating capacity is 288 in the main auditorium, and there are nine Sunday School rooms as well as a completely modern kitchen and other facilities.

Pastors who served the parish from 1898 include C. J. Messerli (1898-?), C. Wieting (?-1907), E. DeWald (1907-13), C. E. Friedrichsen (1913-16), P. Engelbert (1916-18), F. Treiber (1920), A. W. Kraft (1921-23), H. H. Stahnke (1925-35), L. J. Fuchs (1936-38), G. C. Kohlstedt (1939-55), M. J. Schmidt (1955-60). The present pastor, Rev. William Schumm, came in July, 1960.

The Redeemer Trinity Society, which is the married people's organization, was an outgrowth of the youth Walther League and was formed in the first years of the Armour congregation. This society is not affiliated with any national organization. Its function is to further Bible study, which has been carried on faithfully throughout the years.

The young people's Walther League is affiliated with state and national societies. Youth meet for Bible study and training needed to become better laymen.

In 1952, the men of the congregation met

with Lutheran Laymen League representatives, A. E. Herboldt and A. L. Muller, to discuss forming a men's club. It was voted to form the Redeemer L. L. L. This organization is nationally affiliated and its members are active in all phases of church work. L. L. L. sponsors the Lutheran Hour on radio.

Redeemer Ladies Aid was received into membership with the Lutheran Women's Missionary League of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and other states, March 20, 1945. There were 21 members in Aid then. In 1960 with the help of Pastor Schmidt, women of the congregation were organized into service groups to share in work and projects of the church.

Sunday School enrollment averages about eighty children. Classes are from nursery through confirmation class.

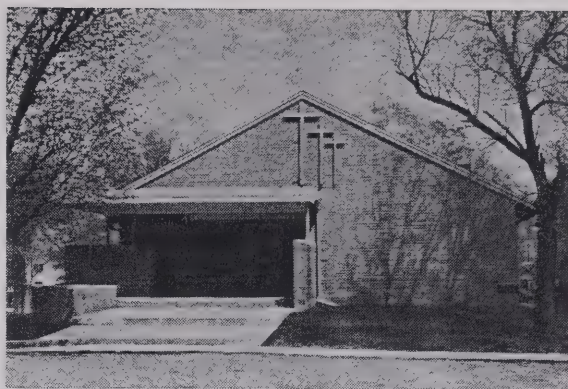
It was primarily through the efforts of Walter Lineau that the mission at Armour was started. He worked hard with the pastors to establish a congregation in Armour. Membership was small but has grown mightily. The first few members were Mr. and Mrs. Walter Lineau, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Youngstrom, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Krueger, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Hardyk, Andrew Pekoske, Mr. and Mrs. Jake Neu, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Teske, and Rev. and Mrs. G. C. Kohlstedt.

Community Congregational Church

(Taken from History by Mrs. H. B. Mead and Mr and Mrs. Dwight Messing.)

The Congregational Church was organized in Grand View with a membership of about 25 and a little, white church was built in 1883. Materials were hauled from Plankinton and paid for by popular subscription and a loan from the church building society. Most of the labor was donated. According to the Douglas County *Chronicle* of 1885, "The church was the meeting place of all organizations interested in community betterment."

When the railroad missed Grand View and Armour was platted, the church was moved to the new town, Nov. 29, 1886. Before the church was moved, the first service was preached in Armour by Dr. R. Bull on the foundation of the drug store being constructed by Crutchett and Scallin. The church was reorganized when it was moved to Armour and Rev. W. H. Thrall was the first pastor. Work of a pastor was real pioneering. There were no autos nor even bug-



Community Congregational Church

gies—it was a wagon or horse on a trail over the prairie. There were kerosene lights; water was hauled in barrels which stood by the door until used; there wasn't a bathroom within 50 miles, no telephones and even telegram deliveries were uncertain. Reverend Thrall received a long delayed message announcing his mother's death.

According to the late Mrs. H. B. Mead who lived in the Thrall home, Reverend Thrall held meetings on Sunday afternoons during 1886-1887 in the Lyman school house, six miles west of town. If no one volunteered to drive for him, he walked the twelve miles. During the year his brother, an Eastern preacher unaccustomed to pioneer hardships, visited him. Together they walked the twelve miles. Mrs. Mead said, "I thought Reverend Thrall took secret delight in the fact that no way was provided that particular Sunday." On July 27, 1888, P. D. Armour, millionaire meat packer, donated \$100 to the church to purchase a bell.

In 1901, the mortgage on the church was released and at the annual meeting in 1902 members voted to build a parsonage. Plans had been drawn and the building, complete with paint, paper, screen windows and doors, storm windows and doors, board sidewalks, out buildings, and a cistern, was to be constructed at a cost not to exceed \$1300. It was built but the kitchen had to be left off and the building lowered two feet. Later, it was modernized and a kitchen built.

In 1908, the little white church was moved off, committees were appointed, and a new brick church was built. Members hauled rock and did most of the excavating. The Ladies Aid pledged and raised \$1000, \$600 at the first annual dinner and bazaar. The new church was completed in 1908. In 1912 the

Sunday School, which had been functioning separately, was joined to the church, which then assumed its financial support and selected its officers.

In 1921, fifty-one members of the Methodist Episcopal Church joined the Congregationalists and this property was deeded to the Congregational Society. Later, members of the Baptist Church joined and the name of the church was changed to Community Congregational. In 1952, the church which had been built in 1908 was completely gutted by flames caused by a defective furnace. A new church was built and dedication services were held February 7, 1954. Final payment for construction of the new church was made at that time and the church was debt-free.

In June of 1960, Delbert Permann, son of Mrs. Edna Permann, was ordained into the ministry at the church. At present, two other members, Mary Kathryn Glantz and Mary Palmer, plan to enter church work.

Pastors who have served include W. H. Thrall, 1886-87; George W. Rexford, 1887-88; Henry Wilson, 1888-91; John W. Bates, 1891-93; William Hubbard, 1894-98; Frederick M. Cutler, 1898-1901; George Baker, 1901-02; David E. Evans, 1902-05; W. T. Dawson, 1905-10; E. C. Ford, 1910-13; T. C. Williams, 1913-17; Malcolm F. Miller, 1917-20; B. F. Myers, 1920-26; Rollin B. Holden, 1927-30; A. R. Boone, 1930-37; E. C. Salter, 1937-42; Ralph Hoffman, 1943-48; Rudolph Hertz, 1948-52; Richard Diede, 1953-55. John H. Chapple, who came in 1956, is the present pastor.



Congregational Church, Built in 1908, Burned in 1952

PIONEER SKETCHES

(*Editor's Note:* This section is devoted to pioneer families who settled in Armour or in the Armour area before 1900. If there are omissions, it is because information was not available and not provided by relatives or friends. Every effort has been made to make this section as historically accurate as possible and the editors will not be held liable for mistakes or omissions.)

Mr. and Mrs. William Altig

William Henry Altig drove a team of horses from Marne, Iowa, to Douglas County, S. Dak., in 1882, where he took up a pre-emption claim to 160 acres of land in Houston School District. He built a home-stead house partly of sod, and was soon joined by his wife, Elizabeth Berry Altig, and small son, George Leslie.

Later, they traded their pre-emption claim for a tree claim of 160 acres in the same area. Three of their children died in infancy. Those reared near Armour were Leslie, William, Myrtle, Evert and Homer, whose twin brother, Howard, lived to be only four months old. Mrs. Altig died in 1902. Mr. Altig died in 1926.

Myrtle Altig married Albert Dierks in 1904. He died in 1946 and she died in 1954. Their children are Lloyd, Lyle and Doris DeWald, all of Armour. Will Altig lives in Idaho. His seven children live in various parts of the west. Mr. and Mrs. Homer Altig and daughter, Shirley Nelson, live at Caldwell, Idaho. Leslie Altig is deceased. His wife lives at Caldwell. Their children are Marvin, Neila, DeElda and Merrill. Evert Altig is deceased and his widow lives at Portland, Ore. They have four children.

Mr. and Mrs. John Baird

Mr. and Mrs. John Baird came to Douglas County in 1880 and settled 3½ miles east of Armour where he lived until his death in 1907. She died in 1913. Deceased children, Grace, Walter, James, Maude, Robert, Agnes, Frank, and Pearl. Living son, John Roy, Kelso, Wash.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Barrett

Emmorette Messinger settled on a home-stead in Clark Township in 1885. Charles H. Barrett purchased land in Iowa Township and came in the spring of 1890. They were

married in 1890. He died in 1905; she died in 1940. Living children, Frank, Edice, and Lucile Polkinghorn.

Mira Batchelder Family

After her husband died in a mine in Hancock, Colo., Mira Batchelder and children, Frances, Webster, Albert and Emery came to Douglas County in September, 1883. Her older girls had married before and lived in Iowa. They drove a team of horses overland from Farley, Iowa, and came to Plankinton. Will and Lizzie Dunn lived 24 miles southwest and they rented the Wheeler farm, two miles west; then moved three miles north and one mile east of Dunns and then moved to Grand View.

Mira served as postmistress there from April 4, 1889 to January 20, 1892. Mira left Armour in 1909 and moved to California. She died in 1929.

Deceased children: Eunice died in infancy; Carolina, Narcissa, Flora, Mary, Noah Albert, and Job Emery also deceased. Living children: Frances Spaulding, 94, and Daniel Webster, 89. He helped his sister Frances drive U. S. Mail from Grand View to New Holland, attended Dakota Wesleyan, taught school, was deputy Register of Deeds at Grand View under Leo Baumgartner. Moved to Armour, operated K. G. Foster's Abstract Office 14 years and assisted him in his butter and egg business. Then "Web" moved to Aberdeen and bought into Cos and Howard Abstracting Co. which was the largest title company in the state then. "Web" put in a new system of records and rewrote entire records of Brown Co. Later moved to Seattle for 2 years and then to Sacramento where he now lives.

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Baumgartner

Leo Baumgartner came to Armour in 1888 where he took charge of Fullerton Lumber Yard. He was elected register of deeds in 1891. In September 1892 he purchased an interest in a hardware store and in 1893 acquired sole ownership. He had married Anna Muesse in 1889. His business was located where the Boughey tavern and Pine Room now is. After his sudden death, about 1903 his wife and daughter, Marie, moved away. Both are deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. John Bean

Mr. and Mrs. John Bean settled on NW3 98-63, May 1882. They owned and moved first building onto the townsite of Armour. They were members of the Baptist Church at Huston which was later moved to Armour. He helped organize and was first president of Pleasant Ridge Cemetery Corp. and gave name to the cemetery: Jennie Piner holds Stock Cert. No. 1. The Bean farm home provided meals and lodging for the crew that surveyed the R. R. into Armour, head man was F. P. Dobson.

John Bean was first worshipful Master of Masonic Lodge and held a lifetime receipt for dues at the time of death. He was an undertaker in Douglas Co. many years and gave one of the earliest embalmers examinations at his Armour home. He taught one term of school in Grand View Township; was Douglas County Register of Deeds 1882-1888; Representative to S. D. Legislature in 1893; State Senator from Dist. 8, 1891. Active in G. A. R. and wife active in W. R. C. and W. C. T. U.

The family moved to Armour from farm in 1890 to corner of 6th and Dobson St. He died in 1915. She died 1897. A daughter, Mabel died in 1888 and a grandson, Roland Sanders, died in 1921. The John Bean's daughter, Mrs. Jennie Sanders Piner, lives at Pierre, South Dakota.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Henry Bents

By Mrs. Beulah Haas

My father, Henry Bents, and family located in Armour in 1896. They came to South Dakota in 1883 to take up a claim near Athol, So. Dak. Later lived at Conde, Blunt and DeSmet. In 1896 he decided to go into the nursery business and found Armour a very progressive, rapidly growing town with very good railroad service. There was talk of extending the Milwaukee road to Corsica, and Stickney which came a few years later.

Armour had a fine race track which attracted many outsiders as there were races and much activity. There was a lot of building going on but no houses to rent and we had to build a house before we could move. Later sister Florence's wedding, my brother, Glenn's, and my own were held in our home in Armour.

My brother Glenn died in 1928 in Highmore where he was Register of Deeds. Father died in 1930 and Mother in 1950 at Sioux

Falls. My sister, Mrs. Florence Gallagher, and I live in Sioux Falls.

Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Berry, Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Berry filed on a homestead in Douglas County in 1881, where they lived until 1889 when they moved to Armour. He died in 1911 and she died in 1931. They had three children, William, Edgar, Jr., and Maud, who are all deceased.

Edgar, Jr., who had come with his parents as a small child in 1881, completed ten grades at the Armour Schools, all there were at that time. He went to work for his brother-in-law, Walt Fritts, a barber. Edgar married Mary Jacobsen in 1906 and purchased the barber shop. They had four children: Franklin, who died in 1959; Dorothy Palmer of Chicago; Kenneth, who operates Berry's Barber Shop, Armour; and Kathryn Means, Yankton. Edgar, Jr., died in 1945 and Mrs. Berry now makes her home with her daughter, Kathryn, in Yankton.

Mr. and Mrs. James Berry

Mr. and Mrs. James Berry moved to Dakota Territory in February of 1883 and homesteaded near the present site of Armour. In 1894 the family moved to Arkansas and returned to Armour in 1895. He served as marshal, did market gardening, and sold nursery stock. He planted many trees in Armour and at the cemetery. He died in 1937; she died in 1941. Their children are Jay and Percy, who live near Cheyenne, Wyo.; Lee of California; and Mrs. Murl Alexander of Apache Junction, Ariz.

Mr. and Mrs. August Bertram

Mr. and Mrs. August Bertram took up a homestead in 1880 in the northeastern part of the county. The post office was in Flensburg. He died in 1932 and she in 1949. He farmed for many years.

Deceased children: C. H. Bertram, who died in 1954, and Louise Morrison, in 1952. Living children: Bertha Witte, Calif.; Rose Walls, Oregon; Albert, Oscar, Louis, Anna Kostilnik, and Sophia Hayes, all of Texas.

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Bertram

Herman J. Bertram came to Douglas County with his parents in 1884. He married Annie Plamp in 1904. He died in 1952. A son, Oscar, is also deceased.

Living children are Elmer and Herman. Mrs. Bertram lives in Mitchell.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Bertram

In 1881 Ernest Bertram and Ernest Hoffman came to Mitchell by train and arrived there, March 17. They began walking the 30 miles to Douglas County. The creeks were full of water. Sometimes they got rides and the last person to pick them up said as he left them off, "Keep walking to where they are hammering. You will find them there; they are building the minister's house which is Flensburg." There Ernest Bertram found his brother, Louie, and they walked to Michael Reimnitz's home where they stayed. That night there was a big snowstorm and they were forced to remain there until the weather cleared before going to Grand View.

Ernest Bertram had intended to take a tree claim but after he got to Grand View they convinced him that he should take a homestead also. He had six months time to come back from Chicago, his present home. He brought lumber for his house and barn, as well as household goods, horses and wagon which was shipped by freight. His neighbors helped him haul his possessions to his homestead; some used horses and some oxen. They also helped him build it up.



John Zirpel, left; William Bertram, right. Picture taken in 1936, year of Armour's Golden Anniversary. They attended the Old Settlers' Picnic in Armour.

In October, Mrs. Bertram and children, Amanda, William, Ernest and Herman came to the homestead, northeast of the present site of Armour. Children born on the homestead were Dora, Carl and August. Dora is the only one living.

Ernest's son, William, took over the homestead when he was old enough and lived there all his life until his death in 1955. Mrs. Wm. Bertram now lives on the homestead with her son, Ernest and family.

Mrs. Dorothy Storm and Mrs. Minnie Lau were born in the one-room homestead house. A new house was built in 1905 and Marie Neugebauer, Ernest, Amanda (deceased), Viola Plamp and Wilma Titze were born there.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Harry Best

Mr. and Mrs. E. Harry Best, in 1895, settled five miles south of Armour. Mrs. Best remembered the assassination of Lincoln and the hard times after the Civil War. Their children were Raymond and Myrtle.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Bindert

Mr. and Mrs. William Bindert settled on a farm three miles south and four miles west of Armour in 1897. He died in 1919, she in 1939. Deceased children: Albert, Dorothy, Martha, Francis, Mary and Carl. Living children: Martin, Bill, Fred, Minnie and Alma. Son, Martin, is living on the farm his father homesteaded.

Mr. and Mrs. George Blanchard

George Blanchard came with his parents and settled west of Grand View in 1881. He was married to Emma Godfrey in 1890. Later, he was employed at the Armour State Bank. Children: George, Burl, Adah, Margaret and Ann.

Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Booher

Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Booher moved to Armour in 1895 where he was engaged in the grain and elevator business. He died in 1930 and she in 1941. Daughter, Inez, died in 1959. Living children: Ruth Putnam, Mary Hammitt, Edith Swanson, Florence and LeRoy, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bosch

By Albert Bosch

On the 7th day of April, 1886, I came to Dakota Territory with my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bosch, to Plankinton, which was the nearest railroad town at that time. We settled on the NE 23, Grand View Township. They moved here from Otaway County, Mich. There were no section lines at that time, just angling roads from Plankinton to Grand View.

My father walked to Grand View the morning of the big blizzard of 1888. He did not come back the same day. He said the weather was nice when he went, but changed rapidly.

My mother died in 1926 and my father in 1929. Deceased brothers and sisters are Gerrit, Katie, Clara and Henry. There are two living children, my brother, Nickolas J., and I, Albert H.

I have lived within one mile of my present location for 75 years. I have seen bad times and good times but I still think it is a good, old South Dakota.

Carl Boyer

Carl Boyer came with his family, the Thores Boyers, to Douglas County in 1883, and settled 11 miles west of Armour.

Mr. and Mrs. Bayard T. Boylan, Sr.

By B. T. Boylan, Jr.

B. T. Boylan, born in Wisconsin, drove a covered wagon to Iowa in 1876. He filed on a claim in Clark Township in 1882. In 1883 he started an implement, lumber and fuel business in Grand View. He continued in business the rest of his life, associated with his brothers, Fremont, Samuel, Algy, and Wilber at various times; also with E. P. Wanzer in the land business and finally with his immediate family. At one time he operated the old P. D. Armour Hotel.



Bayard T. Boylan, Sr.

In 1885, he married Ella Lawrence. She had come to Douglas County in 1882 with her father and brother, Frank. They filed on claims adjoining Grand View. Many times she told of the early days and hardships—Indian scares, twisting of hay for fuel, barley coffee, blizzards, and the lack of common conveniences and food.

When Armour was started in 1886, B. T. moved his business to the new railroad town.

Branches of the business were established later in several inland towns as Castilia, Edgerton, and others.

B. T. was Armour's first city clerk and auditor. The original ordinances are in Mrs. Boylan's handwriting. He served several terms on the school board, was county treasurer, state representative and senator, and postmaster four years. He was one of 12 men who purchased land and organized Pleasant Ridge Cemetery and he served as president for many years. None of these men received remuneration for the land or their services.

Mr. Boylan was a charter member of several lodges, member A. F. A. M. Knights Templar, Shrine. He died in 1933.

Mrs. Boylan was a charter member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, past matron of Eastern Star, member of the Thimble Club and the Ladies Cemetery Association. She kept up with her art and many have some of her paintings. She loved flowers and the Boylan home was a show place. She died in 1929.

They had three children, Laurence, who was accidentally killed in 1932, Bayard T., Jr., and Lula Walin, who reside in California.

Mr. and Mrs. George Breen

George W. Breen came to Douglas County, March 3, 1898, and lived on a farm three miles west of Armour. He worked for Frank Peacock. Mrs. Breen was born in Charles Mix County. A son, Pat, died in 1950. Living children: Nellie, Bob, Mary Ann, Vera, Mike, Franklin, Jane, George Jr., Sharon, and John.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Bringelson

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Bringelson settled five miles west of Armour in June, 1893. He died in 1941, she in 1916. A son, Archie, is also deceased. Living children: Anton, David, George, Carl, Hannah Clark, Florence Marten, and Esther McClure.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Brown

Frank Brown and Mary Fortrie were married in 1888 at her parents' home, about eight miles north of Armour. Her father came to Armour on the first train in 1886. Frank came to Douglas County in 1882. He farmed, had a feed store and later a meat market. He is deceased. Mrs. Brown, 91, lives at a Mitchell nursing home. Children: Mrs. G. E. Hagen, who died in 1961; Leonard, Ma-



Frank Brown Family, Taken in 1890.
Frank, Mamie Ellen and Mary

pleton, Iowa, who died in 1961; and one living son, Bernard, of Mitchell.

Their daughter, Mamie Hagen, lived her entire life with the post office address of Armour. She and her husband operated the Armour Herald. Later, he was postmaster. Both are deceased. Their daughters are Mrs. Edith Walker and Mrs. Ruth Zimmer.

Mr. and Mrs. John Brown

Mr. and Mrs. John Brown and family filed upon land in Valley Township in the spring of 1882. The family lived there until 1902 when they moved to Armour. Mr. Brown died in 1899 and Mrs. Brown in 1901. Children were Fannie, Mattie, Mary, Libby, James, William, Charles and Mrs. G. N. Pol-lard.

Charles Brown was associated with the E. W. Cline furniture business. Later, he and his brother, William, and George Ches-ley operated the Armour State Bank. He was also in real estate. Charles married Olive Udy in 1905. He died in 1932.

Mr. and Mrs. Christian Buhler

Mr. and Mrs. Christian Buhler settled 3½ miles south and 4 miles east of Armour in 1885. She died in 1927, he in 1939. Their children, all living, are: Mrs. Bertha Terry, Mrs. Nell Baker, Mrs. Elizabeth Marsh, Mrs. Agnes Schwert, George, William and Charles.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bussell

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bussell settled two miles west of Armour in April, 1884. Mr. Bussell purchased the patent for the farm

which was later farmed by his son, Charles. Harry's grandson, Frank, now lives on the farm. Harry Bussell died in 1925 and Mrs. Bussell died in 1928. Deceased children: Ed-win and William. Living children: Nellie Myers, Charles, and Gladys Swallow.

Mr. and Mrs. James Carlon

James Carlon came to Armour in 1891, where he managed an elevator. Later, he purchased it and established a chain of elevators. Mrs. Carlon died in 1905 and he died in 1937. Living children: May Doyle, Cleo Van Abel, Gladys Carlon, Cecelia Gal-invaux, and Ileen Hohn.

Mr. and Mrs. George Chandler

Mr. and Mrs. George Chandler came to Douglas County in 1882 and settled about where the city of Armour is now located. Children: Marion, Thomas, Frank, and Cora.

Mr. and Mrs. Abel G. Chaney

By Daisy Clarke and Florence Beck

Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Chaney came from Iowa in a covered wagon, drawn by horses, with the cow tied behind. They arrived on April 22, 1886, accompanied by their chil-dren, Amy, Carl and Daisy. Mr. Chaney took up a tree claim in Section 3 98-65, West Chester Township. He had to plant ten acres of trees and he cut one-foot lengths from cottonwood branches and soaked them at the edge of the lake in front of the house. The entire family helped push them into the ground. He built a barn which was used for a house that first summer until he and Mr. Perle Pettit built the house. Lumber was hauled from Plankinton.

The family attended the July 4, 1886, celebration at Grand View. A band of In-dians attended—the squaws formed a cir-cle and danced. They got Les Crago inside and did not let him go until he paid them 50 cents. They had camp fires and bar-becued beef.

When fire started at the Indian reserva-tion about two miles south of the Chaney home, Mr. Chaney hitched a team to a walking plow and hurried to make a fire break by plowing several furrows. Daisy and Carl hitched one horse to a stoneboat and with a full barrel of water and grain sacks, hurried to help fight the fire. They dipped the sacks in water and whipped the fire. The well had a wheel with two buckets on a frame above to haul up water.

One fall was so dry that there were many fires. Men worked furiously to save buildings and grain. The grain was tied in bundles in those days and piled in shocks in the field until it could be put into round stacks that were brought to a sharp peak to shed water. In harvest, farmers helped each other harvest and stack and then thresh with a horse power threshing machine.

Mr. Chaney often went hunting the numerous ducks and prairie chickens and came home with dozens. On Sunday, Carl and Daisy walked two miles to Sunday School in Richardson's school house. Later, church and Sunday School were held 2½ miles north and Rev. Button came out from Armour to preach. In those days the whole family went together to dances in homes in the neighborhood.

Hay was twisted in figure-eights to burn in the cook stove for cooking; and hay was stuffed into a tin drum, like a deep wash boiler, which was turned over on the stove—this made heat longer than twisted hay.

Mr. Chaney served on school and township boards. The Chaney's observed their 60th wedding anniversary, June 30, 1930. He died in 1930, and she in 1940. A son, Carl, died in 1908. Living children: Mrs. Amy Spaur, Kadoka; Mrs. Daisy Clarke, Montana; and Mrs. Howard Beck, Armour, who was born on the "tree claim."

Mr. and Mrs. George Chesley

George Chesley came to Armour in 1890, and married Emma Faris in 1894. He had a chain of elevators in several towns, starting with the first one in Armour. In 1911, he sold the Armour elevator and went into the real estate and insurance business with



Taken About 1892. Back row: Robert McKinnon, Slichter. Front: George Chesley.

Charles Brown, the firm called "Chesley and Brown," with which he was associated until he died in 1940. Mrs. Chesley also died in 1940.

Children are as follows: Dr. Faris Chesley, deceased; living children are George, Mrs. Arthur Sawers, Mrs. Bernard Brazeau, Mrs. W. E. Moring, and Mrs. Geneva Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. Ephriam Clabaugh

By Mrs. Viola Hagenson

My parents, Ephriam and Mary Clabaugh, were originally from Everett, Pa. They moved to Marcus, Iowa, in 1892 and lived there two years. Crops were drowned out those years. When Charles Mix County was opened for homesteading, my father came to this vicinity. Instead of using his homestead right there, he bought a quarter section of land located 2 miles south and ¾ mile east of Armour. Don Hinckley now lives on this farm.

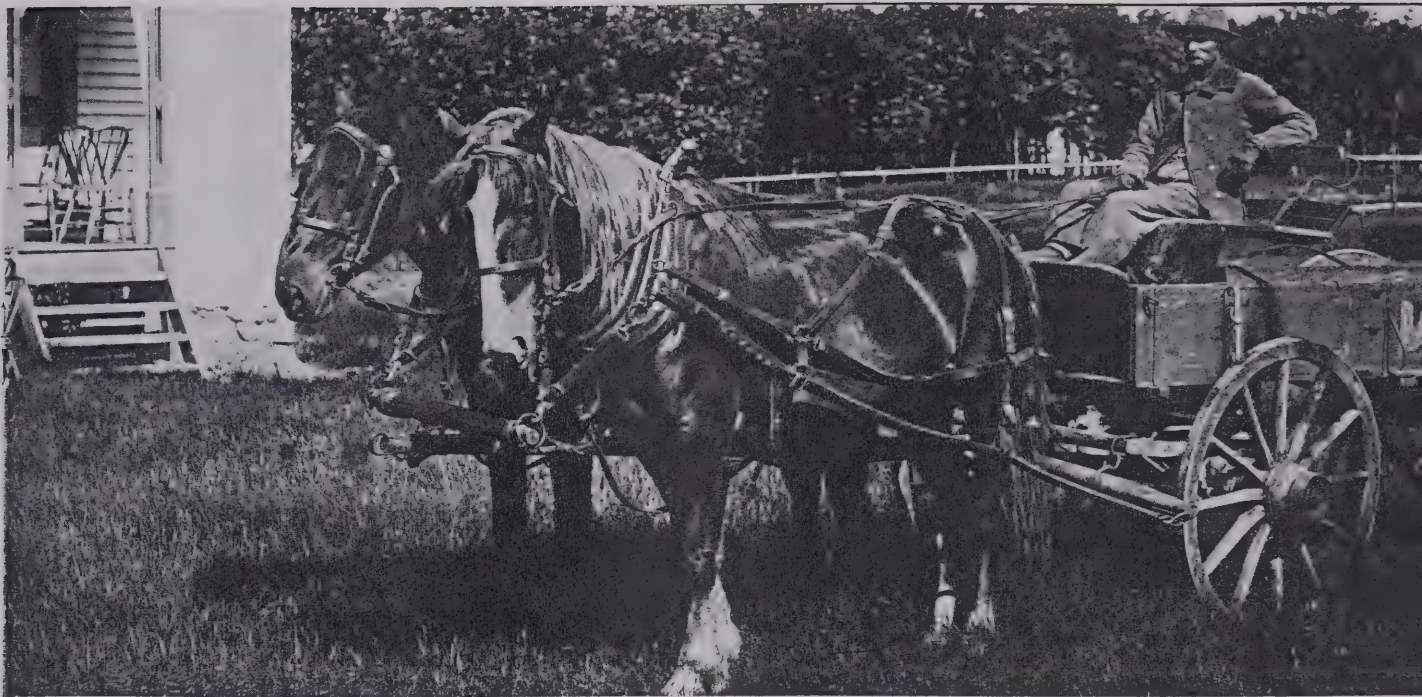
Our family, my parents, my sister, Minnie, my brothers, Ross and Kelly, and I moved to this farm in the spring of 1894. My father paid \$2800 for this farm, but paying for it took years of toil and sacrifice due to adverse conditions. There was a crop failure in 1894 due to drouth and 1895 wasn't much better but the folks were staunch and faced it bravely until better days came.

I was a small girl then, but as I recollect, several years of the 90's were very much like the 1930's with those awful dust storms and crop failure. Russian thistles or tumbling weeds, as they were commonly called in the 90's, were really a menace. They filled groves, tore down fences and sometimes filled the air during the worst dust storms. I remember distinctly how they flew over our little country school houses. Sometimes it got almost as dark as night. Our school houses were equipped with kerosene lamps and were used quite often.

During these trying times, my father worked at anything he could get to do for 50c a day. He went to Gayville one fall with team and wagon to pick corn. He came home week-ends with a load of corn as payment for his labor. In that way he managed to get the little livestock he had through the winter.

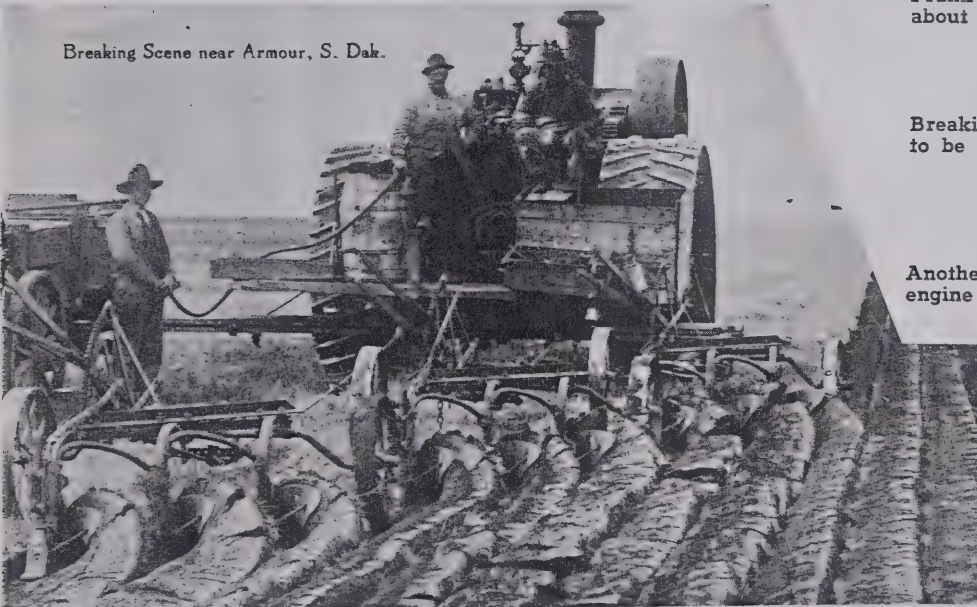
I often think of the advantages of youth growing up today. Our good times were limited as at first our only transportation was our own two feet or the lumber wagon.

(Continued on Page 61)



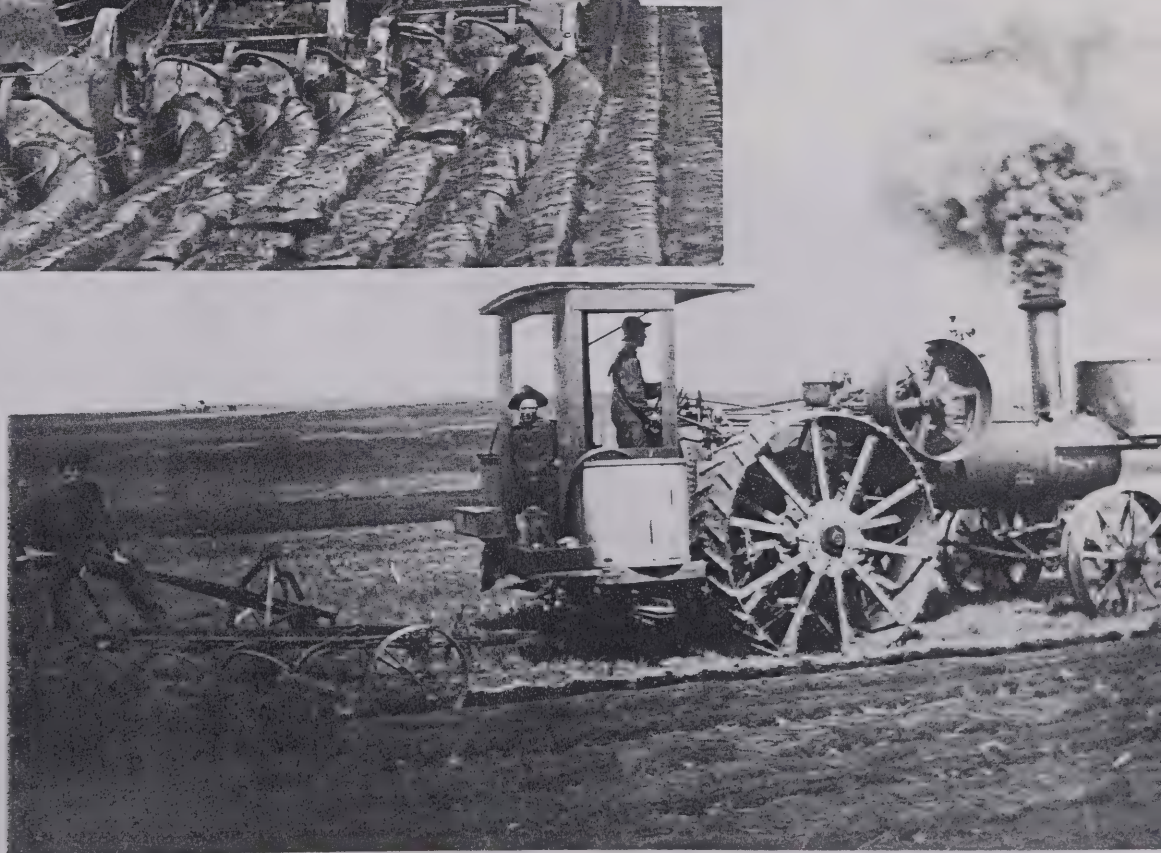
Frank Brown with his team of horses,
about 1900.

Breaking Scene near Armour, S. Dak.



Breaking scene near Armour, believed
to be about 1900.

Another plowing scene with a smaller steam
engine and smaller plow, on cultivated land.





Picture taken on the Joseph Kolečka farm after the cyclone of May 26, 1908, destroyed buildings and killed poultry and animals.



Tim Norton in front of his jewelry store before the fire of 1916. Tim came to Armour in 1898 and has been in business longer than any other individual in Armour. Having sold his jewelry business, he now has his optometry business.



"This is the latest. When you have an OIC washing machine, there will be no more hard wash days. Go see them at Leo Baumgartner's Hardware Store." Ad appeared in October 22, 1897, Chronicle.

Harry J. Crutchett, shown at left, in an early photo of his drug store. The business, established in 1886, is now operated by his son, Charles P. Crutchett.



Plowing with horses after the steam engine did most of the breaking and before the gasoline engine became commonplace in general farming operations in the area. Pictured is Emil Fink.



Harvesting scene, with neighbors working together, using horses and binder in 1911, south of Armour. Pictured are E. W. Webber, E. W. Crittenden, W. H. Glantz, W. Magunson, and W. Webber. Shockers were W. Paul, unidentified man, Jennie and Chub Webber, and two small Webber boys carrying water.

Threshing flax by steam engine power in 1908, just north of Armour. Identified men are Harold Robinson on the threshing machine, Howard Robinson beside the engine, foreground, Art Kinder on engine, and the father of the Robinson boys, H. P. Robinson, is in the buggy, right.





Businessmen at a banquet at the Johnson House. Clockwise, starting at left: B. T. Boylan, James Carlon, Jno. Schroeder, Fred Knapp, Chas. Brown, Geo. Matthews, Fred Hoffman, Chas. Kyte, Homer Knapp, Beardsley, Connelly, Dr. LaShier, Pete Hospers, Kin. Foster, C. E. Floete, Geo. Chesley, C. O. Knapp, E. P. Wanzer, L. Baumgartner, and T. B. Roberts.



Armour Town Band in 1913. Back row, left to right: Dr. M. A. Moran, John Wolfe, Fred Antrim, Clifford Fiscus—leader, Vern Giles, Dr. J. H. Davis, Philip Nordaker, Harry Wait. **Center row:** Lynn Sleister, Ralph Henderson, Walter Palmer, Carl Gosch, Willis Clark, Dr. S. F. Mead, Bayard Boylan. **Front row:** Ira Jameson, Park Sleister, Edgar Wenzlaff, and Ray Wilson.



The steam engine being turned around on the turn table in Armour, just west of the depot, before 1906 when Armour was the end of the line. After 1906, the railroad was extended from Armour to Corsica and Stickney.



Alfalfa stacking farm scene using horses.

Charles P. Crutchett and Jay Berry went to Cheyenne, Wyo., in 1913 in this covered wagon. The trip from Armour to Cheyenne took three weeks. Mr. Berry now operates a ranch in Wyoming.



Land prospecting party returning from Gregory. Jim Scott's auto had a punctured tire. Note "highway," a little more than a cattle trail.

"Horse and Buggy Days." In the early 1900's and late 1800's, this was the fastest and most comfortable method of travel. A fast team of horses could cover a lot of miles in a short time. The fly netting on the horses helped keep the flies off the horses.





The Armour Creamery, owned and operated by C. O. and Fred Knapp, and located where Dammann's body shop now stands. At right is the milk wagon which made house to house deliveries to patrons.



Left, Jacob Meyer, and right, Howard Robinson, with a team of mules.

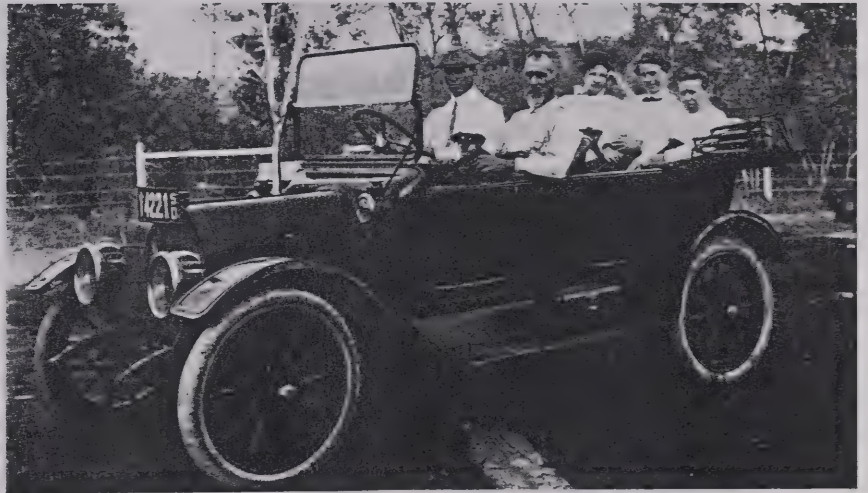


The Philip Litz Blacksmith Shop. Left to right, Richard Litz, Martin Sorenson, Philip Litz, and Mr. Van Emen. Richard was killed in an accident in the shop in 1917, when he was 26 years old.



The rural mail carriers in 1911. Left to right: H. B. Mead, Elmer Bowers, Wm. Matteson, and Lawrence Hand. The post office was located across the street from the present post office. H. B. Mead was the first rural carrier out of Armour. Rural deliveries were started shortly after 1900.

Left to right: Dwight Messing, Geo. T. Chandler, Jessie Norton, Cora Chandler, and Mrs. Geo. Chandler. The auto belongs to Tim Norton. Picture was taken at the Chandler place.



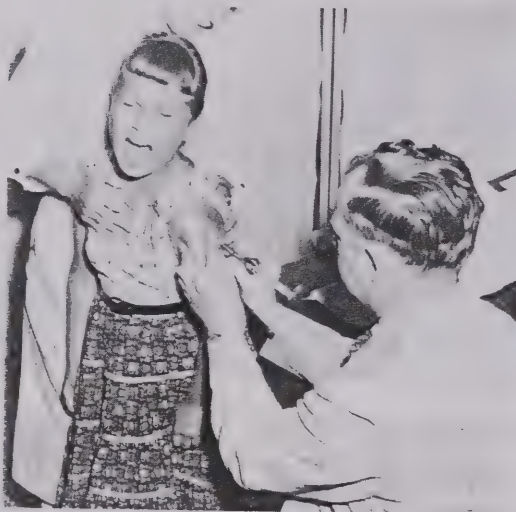
A view of Armour's July Fourth, 1887, celebration. This was the first July Fourth celebration Armour had. According to the Chronicle, "1,000 Indians, headed by the P. D. Armour band, gave a parade. General Hugh Campbell of Yankton spoke for 2 hours. Pease Valley won first money in the ball game; R. A. Parks' horse, the trotting race; H. N. Grant's horse, running race; and W. Wheeler's pony, pony race. After other sports, there was a display of fireworks. It was estimated there were 5,000 people here." This is looking south on main street in block of present post office.





A landmark that stood since 1887 was remodeled in 1956 by the First National Bank. The upper story was removed and the lower story refaced with new brick. On January 1, 1960, the name of the bank was changed to the First State Bank.

It was "grunt" and "groan" day when the equipment of the Armour Memorial Hospital was moved to the new Douglas County Hospital in the summer of 1957. From the left is Dr. Mark Wilson, Mike Carmody, and Vervyle Van Den Hoek coming down the back stairs of the Hanskutt building where the Armour Hospital was located.



Mass Salk Polio shots were given youngsters in Armour shortly after the vaccine was termed safe for public use. Here, Dr. Ronald administers the first shot to Glenice Walz, with Mrs. Gerrit Scholten assisting. The first shots were given June 23, 1955, and the second shots on July 7, 1955, at the city building.

In the fall of 1911, Paul Hollman, left, was the supervisor in charge of the first grading on the road, four to six miles south of Armour, which is now U.S. Highway 18 and 281. It was rebuilt in the early 1950's and hard-surfaced for the first time. Next to Hollman is John Brag, Edward W. Webber, and Wyman Webber.





Left to right: Mr. and Mrs. E. Clabaugh, Minnie (Sparks), Viola (Hagenson), Ross and Kelly.
Picture taken in 1891.

Later, we had what they called a spring wagon, which was a small wagon with springs underneath which made riding more comfortable. When we finally got a top buggy, we were as proud of that as folks are of a new car today. While our good times were limited mostly to parties in homes, they were wholesome and we enjoyed them immensely.

As time went on, we became very deeply rooted in South Dakota and none of the family ever left the state. My father and mother lived on the same farm on which they moved in 1894 until their deaths. Mother died in 1930 and father in 1934. My brothers, Ross and Kelly, are also deceased. All that is left of our family are my sister, Minnie Sparks, and I. No doubt we will spend the rest of our days in South Dakota also.

Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Claussen

By Henry Claussen

Isaac Claussen was born in 1840 in Murphyboro, Ill., the son of Dr. and Mrs. Emil Claussen. In 1860, he went to the western United States and fought in the Indian Wars from 1860-68. His decision to leave Illinois was prompted by the distasteful fact that he would be forced to fight against relatives living in the South. He was captured during the Indian fighting and received the horrible punishment which consisted of placing

his feet over a fire. Flesh was burned from his toes, leaving the bone exposed, but fortunately he escaped serious infection although he carried these horrible scars through life.

After his service career, he returned to Murphyboro and married Mary Towberman in 1875. They lived at Hartley, Iowa, where he was employed as a railroad construction worker and then farmed two years at Chillicothe, Mo.

Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Claussen and two small children, John and Annie, made the trip to Douglas County from Missouri in an old prairie schooner drawn by two horses. The milk cow was led behind the wagon until one of the horses died. The cow was then harnessed and the trip to Armour completed.

Their first home was built in the side of a hill, called a "dugout." It was necessary to erect this temporary home since they arrived in October and needed winter shelter. The land was a "sea of grass" and it was necessary to travel to the Fort Randall area, a round trip of 60 miles, to cut poles along the Missouri River with which to build their home in the side of the hill. The dugout served comfortably the first winter but when spring arrived, the family built a two-room home of Russian brick, which was made locally. A hay-burning brick oven served as

heating, cooking and baking unit in the home. Fuel was prairie hay which was gathered and stored in a hay room at the rear of the house, adjoining the kitchen. This eliminated the need for leaving the house during storms for fuel.

During the blizzard of 1888, John Grosz and Jacob Weber were on their way to Armour when the storm drove them into the fence which surrounded the Claussen property. They made their way along the fence to the Claussen home and safety. Mr. Claussen had the only wire fenced farm in the community and when the men found the fence, they renewed their efforts. They were taken into the house and their team was sheltered in the hay room at the rear of the house. The following day, the horses were led through the hay room door into the kitchen and through the house to the outdoors for the snow had completely covered the rear of the house.

During the drouth about 1899, the Claussen family rented their homestead lands and moved to Minnesota where Mr. Claussen worked in the woods, cutting wood and posts for a living. The 40 acres of land cleared near Staples, Minn., raised barley, enough corn and vegetables to supply food for the family. In 1905, the family returned to their Douglas County farm where they lived until 1916 when they moved to Armour. Mr. Claussen died in 1928 and Mrs. Claussen in 1939.

Deceased children are Peggy, John, Edwin, Mary Anne, Benjamin, Albert, Harry, and twins, Gideon and Jasper. Living children, Nellie, Susie, Josephine, Rose, Dollie, Lillian and Henry.

E. W. Cline

E. W. Cline began law practice at Grand View in 1884. He married Fannie Henderson in 1885; in 1886 they moved to Armour. He was states attorney, 1886-90. She died in 1926, he in 1928.

He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Cline. Mrs. Lewis Cline lost her life in the fire of April 2, 1889. The southern part of Dakota was burned in this fire which destroyed the town of Mt. Vernon. The day was beautiful, according to the *Chronicle*, but by noon a wind was blowing about 50 miles an hour. The fire swept several counties and destroyed lives and property along the way.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Cline were alone on the farm when the fire was first seen. He attempted to save the stock and when the

fire was almost to the house, he left the stock and ran to help his wife. He went to the house and went through every room but one calling her name. After receiving no answer, he supposed she had gone to the cave. The fire by this time was between him and the breaking. It is believed Mrs. Cline, overcome by fright, fainted and perished in the flames of the house.

Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Cline were the parents of two children, Howard and Esther.

Mr. and Mrs. Will H. Conover

Mr. and Mrs. Will H. Conover settled 1¾ miles west and 1 mile north of Armour in 1882. He was a charter member of the Community Congregational Church. He died in 1927 and she in 1940. Deceased children, Charles and John. A daughter, Mrs. C. J. Bussell, lives in Hamilton, Ill.

Mr. and Mrs. William Crago

William Crago came to Douglas County in 1883 and his wife and son, Leslie, came in 1884. They lived in a sod shanty on a homestead, 8 miles west and 1 north of Armour's site, Iowa Township, SE 34 99-65.

William was working in a packing plant in Sioux City, Iowa, and his wife, Rachel, and 13-year-old son, Leslie, were alone on the homestead during the blizzard of January 12, 1888. A year later, Leslie was alone with his father when he died in 1889.

William was a member of the Oddfellow Lodge in Pennsylvania. He was a Civil War veteran, served as a private in the company of Volunteers of Captain Hiram T. Stark. He was honorably discharged on July 7, 1865.

Leslie married Margaret Hensler in 1904. He died in 1941. Mrs. Crago lives in Armour. They had nine children. Deceased children are Archie, who died in 1960, and Delphine Smits, who died in 1961. Living children are Mrs. Al Schroeder, Mrs. Orin McLinn, Mrs. Dick Vander Pol, Mrs. Minor Varilek, Mrs. Maurice Paulsen, Lyle, and Aubrey.

Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Crutchett

By Charles P. Crutchett

On June 4, 1886, Crutchett and Scallin, with two other men, came by team and buggy to Huston Corners where they spent the night in John Bean's Hotel.

After buying their building lot the next day in Armour, they had to have a place to stay.

The townsite company allowed no build-

ings or even lumber to be moved to the site until the lots were sold. There was much lumber piled on the section line at the north end of main street, ready to be used in construction.

The sod house of Chancy Miltimore, homesteader, stood on what is now the Courthouse Square.

For several weeks, until hotels could be moved from Grand View, or new ones built, some of the new business men preempted the Miltimore "Soddy." Among these men were H. J. Crutchett and Steve Scallin, druggists; James Wilson, hardware dealer; and Owen D. Tibbets, who was also opening a drug store in Armour.

Mr. Tibbetts' sister, Miss Tibbetts, was the landlady of this little hotel. In several weeks the town boasted several more elaborate hostelrys. Mr. Miltimore's sod house was Armour's "first hotel."

Crutchett and Scallin Drug Store was probably about the first new business building on Armour's Main Street.

In 1889 H. J. Crutchett married Rena Powers. Their eldest son, Harold, died in 1918; their daughter, Marian, died in 1944. Surviving children are Ralph of San Diego, Calif., and Charles of Armour, who operates the Crutchett Pharmacy that was established by his father back in 1886.

In 1891 a fire destroyed the store. This fire took all the buildings from the northwest corner of Block 13 (where Clements Chapel now stands) to the southeast of Block 18. The fire stopped at the brick bank building.

H. J. Crutchett rebuilt his drug store on the same location, Lot 5, Block 18. This time it was made a two-story building.

He served many years as councilman, was clerk of the Board of Education, and a charter member of the Fire Department and its secretary for over 25 years.

In 1921 Charles bought the store from his father.

In 1926 another fire swept Block 18, from the northeast corner where C. J. Bussell had his haberdashery, south to Lot 6, where it was stopped by the brick building of James Hanskutt.

Charles Crutchett rebuilt his store on the same location, this time a brick building, and continues to operate it there.

Mrs. Peter De Geest, Sr.

Mrs. Peter De Geest, Sr., came to Douglas County in 1892 with her family and settled in Valley Township. She was the mother of Henry, Elijah, Peter, Mrs. Ellen Meyer, Mrs. Jane Groen, and Mrs. Elizabeth Heezen. All are deceased.

Her son, Elijah, married Alice Fortrie in 1894. Both died in 1946. Living children are Jennie Swinehart, Mabel Housiaux, Hazel Erickson, Edward, Clarence, Alfred and Maude, all of Rapid City. A son, Glenn, died in 1911.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter De Geest

Bertha Scholten came to Douglas County with her parents, Hendrick and Ziena Scholten, in 1885. In 1892, Peter De Geest settled 5½ miles northeast of Armour. They were married in 1899. He farmed and also served as township officer and county commissioner. He died in 1943 and she died in 1952.

One child, Jasper, is deceased. Living children are Alta Houtkooper, Stickney; Lloyd of Delmont; Ira of Orange City, Ia.; Blanche DeHaai, Frank, and Gladys Blume, all of Armour.

Mr. and Mrs. Evert DeVries

Evert DeVries and Jane Mulenburg came to America from different sections of Holland and met and married at Pella, Iowa. They lived there until the early 80's when the hope of owning a farm of their own brought them and their seven children to Dakota Territory.

During the first years they lived in a dugout in Garfield Township. Later, they bought a tree claim in Valley Township, 1 mile east and 3½ north of Armour. Here they built a home and during these years five more children were born to them. They experienced all the hardships of pioneers. Money was scarce and it was a problem to keep their home. Many Indians camped near their home but they were friendly and bartered with them.

The DeVries were charter members of the Grand View Reformed Church. He died in 1922 and she in 1932. Deceased children: Dena Reusink, Mary Ligtenberg, Effie Scholten, and Gerrit. Living children: Minnie Menning, Guy, Kate Korevaar, Agnes Vander Werff, Jennie Bobeldyk, Arie, John, and Herman DeVries.



Evert DeVries Family. Front row, left to right: Jennie, Mrs. DeVries, Arie, Mr. DeVries, John, Herman. Back row: Dena, Mary, Minnie, Guy, Effie, Gerrit, Kate, Agnes.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Dillman

Daniel W. Dillman and Emily Asper were married in 1860. Their children were Alice Knapp, who died in 1925, and Fred, who died in 1918. The Dillman family came to Dakota Territory, March 15, 1882, and located on a farm five miles northeast of the present site of Armour. Mrs. Dillman died in 1907 and he in 1920. He lived in or near Armour for 38 years.

Mr. and Mrs. William Doty

William and Fanny Doty settled in Grand View Township in 1884. He died in 1923 and she in 1939. Deceased children are Lydia and William. Living children are John, Clarence, Maude, Harry, Mattie and Frank.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Double

Sam Double came to Armour in 1888 where he was a carpenter. Both he and his wife are deceased. They had one daughter, Florence Robinson, who died in 1951.

David Jerome Durfrey

He settled on a farm southeast of Armour in 1891. Once a teacher, Mrs. Grover Cleveland, wife of President Cleveland, was once his pupil.

Mr. and Mrs. David Engelland

David Engelland came with his parents to Douglas County in 1882. He married Augusta Weinert in 1889. She had settled in Douglas County in 1882. He died in 1919 and she in 1940. Living children are John, Henry, Elmer, Walter, Anna, Clara, Catherine, Marie and Metta.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Engelland

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Engelland settled on SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 11 99-63 as a homestead in Valley Township and NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 11 99-63 as a tree claim in 1884. The land office was at Yankton and they hauled their supplies from there. The land of the homestead and tree claim is now owned by their son, John.

Jacob Engelland held many township positions and served one term as County Commissioner. He died in 1914 and she in 1939.

All three of their sons were born in the sod house in Douglas County. Two sons, David and Jacob, are deceased. One son, John Engelland, lives in Armour.

John was a mail carrier in 1905 when Armour had five routes. H. B. Mead carried mail on route 1; Elmer Bowers, route 2; John Engelland, route 3; Lawrence Hand, route 4;



Jacob Engelland Family. Front row, left to right: Mr. and Mrs. Engelland. Back row: David, Jacob, Jr., and John.

and Wm. Mattson, route 5. Before John became the carrier on route 3 out of Armour, he was carrier out of the post office at Beulah at the Isaac Sheeder Store and out of the Ebenezer post office at the store of John Ruesink. These post offices were discontinued during John's employment. The postal patrons were then served on route 3 out of Armour. After the Corsica post office began service, most of the route 3 patrons were then served by the Corsica post office.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilhelm Ensminger

Mr. and Mrs. Wilhelm Ensminger came from Potter County to Douglas County in 1889 where they farmed. They moved to Hutchinson County and then bought a farm in Douglas County in 1906 where three of their children, Hulda, Albert, and Emil, still live. Hulda was born on this farm and is still living there. Another son, Elthor, was also born in Douglas County but is now living in Nebraska.

Living children are Mrs. John Friederich, Tripp; Mrs. Herman Hoffman, Harrold; Mrs. Henry Hardyk, Phoenix, Ariz.; Mrs. Theo. Teske, Denver, Colo.; Elthor, Columbus, Nebr.; and Albert, Emil and Hulda, Armour. A son, Gustave, died in infancy and Mrs. Mike Lange (Jacobine) died in 1942.

Mr. and Mrs. James Evans

James Evans came to Douglas County in 1886 with his parents who homesteaded near Armour. He married Elizabeth Steele in 1904. Deceased children: Cecil Mae and E. J. Living children: Alta, Ival, Avis, Hoyle, and Hollis.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Faughender

*By Mrs. Mae Azona and
Mrs. Emil Rothenberger*

William Hamilton Faughender was born in Pennsylvania in 1834. He fought for four years in the Civil War and took part in Sherman's "March to the Sea." During the war, William and his brother were advancing side by side when his brother was hit by a cannon ball. William had to follow orders to continue the advance and was forced to leave his brother.

He married Elizabeth Moore in 1867. Six children were born to them in Pennsylvania, Harry, John, Mary, Jane, Maggie, and Elizabeth. In the spring of 1880, the family began the trip by covered wagon to Dakota Territory. In 1881, their seventh child, David, was born in Illinois. They spent three years farming north of Dixon. In the spring of 1883, they continued their journey. They left the wagon train at Mitchell, where William made arrangements to go to their new location. He walked all the way from Mitchell to their claim in Douglas County, NW¼ Sec. 1, Twp. 99, Range 63, in Grandview Township. There was a shanty on the land and they moved into it.

The first winter was very hard. Snow drifted through the unfinished walls of the shanty. In those early years, the family made a two-day trip twice a year to Plankinton, the nearest town, for supplies. One trip was made to coincide with July 4th, so the family could enjoy the celebration. Mrs. Faughender was the neighbors' "angel of mercy" in time of accident, illness or death. Mrs. Faughender died in 1898 at the age of 61; he died in 1913 at the age of 79.

Harry McClain Faughender, the oldest son, was 16 when the family came to Douglas County. He married Jane Silcox of Iona, Sask., Canada, at Grand View. They lived on a farm north of Armour. Later they moved to Corsica where he operated a hotel, and later worked at the post office and bank. He died in 1959 and his wife in 1927. Their daughter, Fern, lives in California, and son, Merlin, in Tennessee. Twin daughters preceded their parents in death, one was 17 and the other 22 years old.

John Gilmore Faughender was 14 when the family arrived. He and the younger children attended school at Grand View. They were in school when the January 12, 1888, blizzard struck. When the teacher, Mrs. H. P. Robinson, realized the intensity of the

storm, she left in an effort to get food, in case no one would be able to get home for a few days. After getting home, she was unable to return. John, with the help of some of the older boys, was able to make trips to the shed behind the school for coal. It was a long, cold night and a group of cold, hungry children were awaiting rescuers the next day.

John also left the farm and went into business at Armour before 1900. He and Loren (Dode) Coon operated a billiard parlor. In early years it also contained a lunch counter and bowling alley. John made several trips back to Pennsylvania. On the second trip, in 1918, he married Mrs. Lottie Himes, a widow who had two small children, Clair and Pauline, and they returned to Armour with him. He remained in business until his death in 1933. Mr. and Mrs. John Faughender's children are Worthy, John, Gene, Arlene, and Thelma.

Mary (Mamie) was 13 and Jane (Jennie), 10, when they arrived in Dakota. Mary Faughender married David Spaulding, and Jane Faughender married Loren Coon in a double wedding ceremony at Grand View by Justice Wohlford in 1891. Jennie is the only one of the two couples alive. Jennie's husband died in 1934. She is 87 and lives with her daughter, Mrs. Arthur Hargreaves, in Silverton, Ore. The other Coon children are LaVerna, Merton, and Etna.

The David Spauldings had four children. Three are deceased — Paul died in infancy, Murl died in 1958, and Maude died in 1956. Only one son is living — Victor, who is president of the News-Times, published at Forest Grove, Ore. He began his career working at the Chronicle for Eli Thomas. Mrs. Spaulding died in 1901 and he died in 1927.

Elizabeth (Lizzie) was 5 when the family came to Dakota and is now 82. My stepfather and I take care of her. I am her only child, Mae Azona, widow of Dr. James Lintz. My children are Dr. James Lintz and June Loyd, R. N.

Maggie was 8 when the family settled in Dakota. She married Alfred Thomas, a widower. He came here in about 1882. He married Melvinda Houghton in 1874 and she died in 1882. Due to the remoteness of the territory, the letter never arrived to tell him of his wife's death. Their daughters were Mable and Minnie and they came to live with him in 1892. He owned a general store in Grand View and a home. In 1892,

when a severe wind storm struck Grand View, the story is told how he opened the door with a lantern in his hand and was swept into the storm, carried about 80 feet and dropped on a nail which pierced his leg. It was necessary for him to stay in bed for days, as it caused an infection. According to the story, while he was carried by the storm the roof of the house was blown off and Mable with it. After the roof collapsed upon her, Minnie lifted a corner of the roof, with strength born of fear, and Mable crawled out unharmed.

In 1895 Alfred Thomas married Maggie Faughender. He died in 1940 and she in 1942. He was a veterinary, Douglas County sheriff, and operated the Armour City Scales. He was a great story teller and kept his listeners spellbound.

David Faughender was born in Illinois and was two years old when the wagon trip ended. He married Laura Nolan in 1905. He farmed his entire life. One son, Guy, lives in Oregon and another, Clifford, on a farm near Geddes. A third son, Glen, is deceased.



Alfred Thomas, back; John Faughender, front left; Mrs. Alfred Thomas.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Fenzl

Frank Fenzl came to Armour in 1895, where he operated a tailor shop and later a clothing store. He died in 1937. Children are Emma, Dr. Frank, and George.

Mr. and Mrs. John Ferguson

John and Mariah Ferguson settled in the northwest corner of Armour in June, 1884. Both are deceased. Deceased children are John, Jim, Fred, Charles and Susan (Mrs. Wittrock). A son, Frank B., lives in Armour.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Fiscus

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Fiscus were married in Bon Homme County. In 1882 they came to Douglas County, taking up land south of the present site of Corsica. They moved to Grand View where he operated a meat market, and in 1886, moved to Armour where he operated a cafe.

Mrs. Fiscus was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Seymour Simpson. She came with her family to Dakota in a covered wagon to Ponca Agency, where her father was employed by the government. Mrs. Fiscus attended one of the first schools in Dakota Territory. According to the *Chronicle*, the pupils were dismissed one day to watch the passing of Custer's troops on their way to the Little Big Horn. The children rushed down the road, awe-struck and frightened as the calvary rode by. Last of all came the mule drivers' wagons with supplies. Custer and his men encamped for a rest period of nearly a week only a few miles from the Simpson farm, and she remembered asking her father why Custer's tent had a floor while the others did not.

The Fiscus' had two children, Clifford and Jessie. Clifford taught music in Armour and directed the city and school bands. He died in 1950. His widow, Mrs. Edna Fiscus, lives in Arizona. They had a son, Clifford, Jr. Mrs. Jessie Thorson lives at Chamberlain.

Mr. and Mrs. K. G. Foster

Mr. and Mrs. K. G. Foster located in Douglas County at Grand View in 1882 where he filed on a homestead, and with R. D. Prescott and J. J. Devy, laid out and started the town of Grand View. Later they ran one of the first general stores in the county.

Foster was the first Register of Deeds. They moved to Armour in 1891. He was cashier of the Douglas County Bank, had a real estate, loan and abstract business, and

also operated a general merchandise store. Children were Kinsley, Jr., and Louise (Mrs. Lyle Scholes). Mrs. Foster died in 1897. In 1903 he married Gertrude Cross. He died in 1927.

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Floete

Charles E. Floete came to Armour in 1886 and was one of its first citizens. He opened a lumber yard, and in 1891 he and his brother, Franklin Floete of Spencer, Iowa, organized the Floete Lumber Company, with branches in South Dakota and Iowa. In 1894, the Armour State Bank was established by Charles Floete, president, a position he held until his death.

He also had land investments throughout South Dakota. He served as the first County Judge of Douglas County after South Dakota became a state and was re-elected three times. He also served as mayor.

In 1895, Charles organized the Floete Land and Loan Company and incorporated it in 1905. It is now managed by his son, Carl, as secretary.

Charles married Carrie Grotewohl in 1886. Their children are Franklin, Gladys, Carl, and Kathi. Mrs. Floete died in 1901. In 1903 he married Jessie Grotewohl. C. E. Floete died in 1912 and Mrs. Jessie Floete died in 1952.

In 1914 Franklin established the Black Acre Farms, which were managed by Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Hawley and ten sons for 25 years, until they moved to their own farms. Since 1946, Herbert Blume has managed the Black Acre Farms.

Franklin served as Assistant Secretary of Defense and Director of General Services Administration during the Eisenhower Administration and now lives in Massachusetts. Gladys and Kathi live in Armour and California.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis P. Gallagher

Francis P. and Florence A. Gallagher came to Armour in 1898. He was in the real estate and insurance business. Two children, Florence and Paul, died in 1916. Living children are B. H. Gallagher, R. F. Gallagher and R. L. Gallagher. Mr. Gallagher died in 1950. Mrs. Gallagher is now living in Sioux Falls.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gibson

Fred and Louise Gibson came to Douglas County in 1886, later moving to Cherokee

County, Iowa. In 1898 they settled eight miles west of Armour. Children were three sons, Robert, George, and Fred, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Nicolas Goddicksen

Mr. and Mrs. Nicolas Goddicksen homesteaded in Garfield Township in 1882. He was Register of Deeds in 1896. He died in 1935 and she in 1945. A daughter, Clara, died in 1917. Living children are Mrs. Fred Boeker, Stickney; L. G. Goddicksen, Corsica; and Mark and Mrs. Lola Tucker, Denver, Colorado.

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Goehring

In May, 1882, Michael Goehring took up a homestead in Douglas County. He married Katherina Serr in December, 1882. He died in 1941 and she in 1950.

There were 13 children in the family. A son, Theodore, died in infancy; Emil died in 1947; Emilie died in 1956. Living children are Emanuel, Theodore, Gustav, Albert, Reinhold, Anna, Alvin, Eugene, Martha, and Raymond.

Mr. and Mrs. Simeon Albert Grant

Albert came with his parents to Douglas County in 1884. He married Lena Fulk in 1898. He was city sheriff for many years. Deceased children are Fay, Jay and Catherine. Living children are Henry and Thomas,

who owns and operates Tommy's Shoe Repair, of Armour. She died in 1909 and he in 1934.

Mr. and Mrs. Levi Greene

Mr. and Mrs. Levi Greene settled near Grand View in 1884. They had moved from Michigan and arrived in Plankinton and drove across country to Grand View. He died in 1915, she in 1924. Deceased children are Edward F., Mrs. D. W. Batchelder, Mrs. I. C. Fulk, Mrs. A. G. LaClair, Levi Egbert, Ellsworth and William. The one living daughter is Mrs. Alice Dagher.

Mr. and Mrs. John Grosz, Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. John Grosz, Sr., settled on a homestead northwest of Delmont on November 20, 1883. John and some of his neighbors were caught in the January 12, 1888, blizzard and followed the fence to the Isaac Claussen farm where they and their horses were sheltered. He died in 1948 and she in 1939.

Deceased children are John, Jr., Carl, and Reinhold. Living children are Mrs. Pauline Lau, Julius, Mrs. Sarah Lau, Paul, and Mrs. Lydia Blume.

Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Guether

Christopher Guether came to Douglas County in 1882 and filed on a homestead. In



John Grosz Family. Front row, left to right: Mrs. Grosz, Reinhold, Lydia, Paul, John, Sr. Back row: Julius, Sarah, John, Paulina, Carl.

1896 he married Pearl Wilbur. Children are Mrs. Allie Hawley of Armour and Wilbur of Oregon. Mr. Guether died in 1944 and Mrs. Guether in 1954.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Haight

Joseph Haight married Edna Lyman in 1889. He managed the C. O. stock farm, west of Armour. Later, they moved to New York.

The Hamm Family

Francis (Frank) Hamm came to Douglas County with his mother and family, including his brother, Charles. He farmed and raised stock. In 1902 he married Elizabeth Nowlan. Later they moved to Armour. He died in 1945. She is also deceased.

Charles Hamm and Lyda Mulchay were married in 1899 and came to Douglas County. He died in 1940. She is also deceased. Their children are James, deceased; Aloysius of North Platte, Nebr., deceased; Mrs. E. Petted, Des Moines, Iowa; and Sister Mary Ann of Notre Dame, Mitchell.

Mr. and Mrs. James Hanskutt

By Frank Hanskutt

Mr. and Mrs. Hanskutt were originally from a little country called Moravia, which is now the Republic of Czechoslovakia. Mother came with her parents at the age of five. Father came at the age of 15, alone, without friends and relatives, to Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Here he worked as a butcher, a trade he had learned in school in Europe. Later he moved to Yankton, which was then the Capital of Dakota Territory, and then to Scotland where he started a meat market of his own.

From there he went west and filed on a claim west of Geddes. He had a long distance to go to buy provisions at Plankinton and all legal transactions were made at Yankton. He proved up on his claim and in 1886 when the railroad was being built, he decided to come to Armour and start a general merchandise store.

As the town grew, he began buying livestock and grain and also sold machinery. People said he sold everything from pins to threshing machines and bought anything the people had to sell. In later years he expanded his business and operated general stores in other towns. He also started a lumber business which is still being operated by the family. He served as mayor and councilman of Armour.

He died in 1940 and Mrs. Hanskutt in 1951. Two children, Josephine and Clara, died in 1899. Living children are Frank of Armour; Tillie Sprick, Lillian Lang, and Helen Edwards, all of Naches, Wash.

Mr. and Mrs. William Hawkes

Mr. and Mrs. William Hawkes and family came to Douglas County in 1890 by train, in an immigrant car. They built on the farm west of Armour, now owned by Robert Larson. The lumber for the house and all their personal effects were shipped from Chicago. He died in 1898 and she in 1910. Their children were Liley who died in 1903; William P., Arthur and Herbert, who all died in 1955.

William Piner Hawkes came to South Dakota in 1889, one year before his parents. He worked for his uncle, Harry Piner, on a farm west of Armour where B. D. Schelling now lives. He married Emma Youngstrom in 1905. He died in 1955 and she died in 1959. Their children are Donald of Armour; Orville, Yuba City, Calif.; and Raymond, Fairfield, Calif.

Mr. and Mrs. William Heezen

Mr. and Mrs. William Heezen settled northeast of Armour in Valley Township in 1883. She died in 1939 and he in 1942. A son, Frank, died in 1959. Living children: Dirk C., Ollie Seaquist, Henrietta Sievepiper, and Lena Kruse.

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Heusinkveld

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Heusinkveld settled in Douglas County in 1883. They lived temporarily in a dugout. Herman taught catechism once a week after school hours. They came from Silvolde, Province of Gelderland, Netherlands. He died in 1910 and she in 1931. Deceased children: William, Henry, Dick and Dena. One daughter is living, Mrs. Henry Baron.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Hewitt

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Hewitt were married in 1898 and made their home at Armour. They operated a general merchandise store from 1898 to 1926, when the store burned. Mrs. Hewitt died in 1946. Their children are Mrs. Dorothy Schmiedt of Armour; Gerald of Pacific Palisades, Calif.; and Mrs. Lyndall Raben of Huntley, Wyo. Mr. Hewitt is still living.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest T. Hill

By Mrs. C. P. Crutchett

Ernest T. Hill was born at Coventry, England, in 1860 and came to America in 1881. He married Elva I. Barrett in 1891. She was born in Iowa City in 1868. They moved to Armour in March, 1894. Four children were born to them, Briant B., who died in 1899; Hugh J., who died in 1897; Burton E., who died in Rapid City, December, 1951; and Louisa (Mrs. C. P. Crutchett), who has lived all of her married life in Armour. One grandchild, Irene Crutchett Olawsky, lives in Mitchell.

Mr. Hill operated a jewelry store most of his life. He learned the trade in his father's watch factory in Coventry, England.

For many years he was Justice of the Peace of Armour. Charles Raben, a young pharmacist, was to marry Elizabeth Fletcher, a sister of Mrs. Homer Johnson. The Johnsons lived where Mrs. Ed. Hartman now lives. Their oldest son, Allison, was stricken with diphtheria and the wedding plans had to be changed. Mr. Johnson did not wish to have a postponed wedding. Due to the quarantine, no minister would go down to the house. Finally, Mr. Hill went to the Johnson home and Charles and Bess came out on the porch, where Mr. Hill performed the ceremony. The attendants were Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Raben, the groom's brother and wife. This was on January 5, 1898.

Mr. Hill died November 30, 1939, and Mrs. Hill on January 9, 1941, both at Rapid City, S. Dak. They and their three sons are buried here.

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Hochhalter

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Hochhalter settled southwest of Armour in 1898. He died in 1927 and she in 1956. They have eight living children: Albert of Mitchell; Helmuth and Rueben of Armour; Adolph of Geddes; Martha Pfeiffer of Freeman; Leah Stotz of Mitchell; Lydia Fidler of Delmont; and Esther Jones of Mitchell.

Mr. and Mrs. John Hoffman

Mr. and Mrs. John Hoffman came to Armour in 1890 where he was employed by the Floete Lumber Company for about 45 years. He died in 1944 and she in 1959. Deceased children: Pauline, who died in 1889 of diphtheria at Olivet; Arthur, who died in 1898; Christina H. Meinert, who died in 1937; and

John Albert, who died in 1955. Living children are Harold, Port Huron, Mich.; Raymond, Detroit, Mich.; Bertha Cleveland, Hornick, Ia.; and William, Wagner, S. Dak.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hollmann, Sr.

Henry Hollmann moved with his parents to a farm, south of Armour, in 1899. He married Susan Conneally of Cork County, Ireland, in 1904. After living at Delmont and on several other farms, he purchased a farm 3½ miles east of Armour. His son, Henry, Jr., now lives there. Henry, Sr., died in 1953 and his wife in 1958. Their son, Herman, died in 1949. Living children are Henry, Jr., and Madonna Bruning, Armour; Paul Hollmann, Mitchell.

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Hollmann

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Hollmann settled six miles south of Armour in 1899. Their son, Paul, lived on this farm until a year ago when he moved to Armour. Paul's son, Harold, now lives on the farm.

Mrs. Herman Hollmann died in 1930. When Herman was 81 years old, he made a trip to Germany to visit his homeland, fulfilling a lifetime ambition. He died a year later in 1932.

Two children are deceased, Henry, who died in 1953; and Lena Groff, who died in 1961. Living children are Laura Whittemore, her twin brother, Paul, and Lou and Otto, all of Armour.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Hotham

J. H. Hotham came to Grand View in 1882. In 1885 he married Kathryn Simpson. In 1888 he moved to Armour and established a blacksmith shop, which he operated until 1930. He died in 1932 and she in 1935. Their children were Nina, who died in 1918, Hazel (deceased), Warren of Yankton, and Mrs. D. W. Scholes.

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Hrdlicka, Sr.

By Mrs. Agnes Evans

Charlie and Antonie Hrdlicka, with their family of six children, Charlie, Jr., Grace, Mary, Emil, Bessie, and Helen, came from Plattsmouth, Nebr., to Armour, S. Dak., in October, 1898. On their arrival in Armour, they were met by Frank Ptak at whose home they stayed for a few days. They then left for their claim, which was five and one-half miles southeast of Armour. They stayed at

the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kolecka for two weeks while their house was being built on their claim, which was a half-mile from the Kolecka farm.

Charlie Hrdlicka was a carpenter by trade. He built homes in Armour and Geddes, driving a horse and buggy to work. He worked as a carpenter for the first few years while proving up on his claim.

Frances was their first child born in South Dakota; later Leo, Agnes, August and Theodore arrived.

They suffered much hardship during the first years. The electrical storms were severe in the summer and blizzards in the winter.

In 1905 they built the present home where the three brothers, Emil, Leo, and August, now live. Mrs. Hrdlicka died Sept. 2, 1944, at the age of 77. Mr. Hrdlicka died March 21, 1956, at his farm home. He was 97 years old.

All the children are living—Charles, Jr., Grace Werkmeister, and Agnes Evans of Armour; Mary Harms, Tripp; Bessie Berry, Cheyenne, Wyo.; Helen Lawyer, Geddes; Frances Lundberg and Theodore, on farms south of Armour; and Emil, Leo, and August, on the home place.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Huston

Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Huston came to Douglas County in 1881, and settled three miles east and one mile north of the present site of Armour. Mrs. Huston served as postmistress while the post office was located in their home in 1881. Later it was moved to the Brown Store.

Huston founded a settlement, by that name, on his farm. He was also a surveyor and helped organize the county. In 1884, he represented his district in the legislature. He served as register of deeds in 1896.

The Hustons moved to Armour about 1887 where they built and operated the Orient Hotel. About 1890, they moved to Oregon and later to Vancouver, Wash., where they lived with their daughter, Nellie DeBois. Mrs. Huston died in 1912 and he was killed in 1917 in an auto accident. Children: Arthur, Nellie, and Harry.

Mr. and Mrs. John F. James

John F. James came to Douglas County in 1886 and went into partnership with Frank E. Lawrence in the general merchandise business. In 1888, James bought Law-

rence's share and continued to operate it alone. Later, he worked at the Roller Mill in which he owned one-quarter interest.

He married Emma Armstrong in 1877. Their children were Harry and Blanche. John James died in 1899 and Mrs. James in 1935.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Jameson

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Jameson moved to Armour in 1890 from Geddes. They lived in the house just north of the Catholic Church. The house still stands. Both Mr. and Mrs. Jameson are deceased. She died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. E. E. Dubes, in 1946, with whom she lived the last 20 years of her life.

Deceased children are Charles, Shannon, and Grace. Grace was born in 1887 and died in 1895 of diphtheria. No funeral could be held but prayer was offered at the graveside by Pastor Button.

Living children are Mrs. Alpha Buettner of Whittier, Calif.; Ira of Alma, Calif.; and Blanche (Mrs. E. E. Dubes) of Armour.

Homer and Edwin Johnson

Edwin S. Johnson established the Citizens State Bank in Grand View in 1884. In 1885 his brother, Homer W., went into partnership with him, and the following year, 1886, they moved the bank to Armour. They also established a land and loan business. Later, they started banks in Geddes, and in Iowa and Minnesota.

Homer married Dora Fletcher in 1893. Their children were Allison, Homer W., and Paul.

Edwin married Anna Thoreau in 1884. She died in 1910. In 1912 he married Marie Nelson. He served as Douglas County states attorney in 1892. In 1894 he was elected state senator. He served as chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee from 1902 to 1904. He was elected to the U. S. Senate in 1904 and served until 1916. He died in 1933. Children were Mrs. Howard Warren, Emily, Gladys, Alice, Maxine, Dudley, Robert, David and Harvey.

Mr. and Mrs. Olaf Johnson

Olaf Johnson came with his parents to Douglas County in 1882. In 1900 he married Carrie Shuler. They had eleven children. He died in 1945. He and his brother, Eric, did custom threshing for many years.

Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Keith

By Mrs. Laura Schermerhorn

My father, Hiram Keith, came with his father and step-mother, and Stephen and Laura Keith, and his half-brother, Frank, in the early 1880's. They settled on a farm in Valley Township, not far from Grand View. My mother, Anna Holt, filed on a claim (later owned by Frank Ferguson) southwest of Armour, and taught school in the county until she proved up her claim. She was one of the first teachers at Grand View.

Soon after my parents' marriage in 1889, they bought a quarter section of land in Valley Township, four miles northeast of Armour, from a Mr. Welch. Father also filed a tree claim cornering the former. Later they bought the Gilroy quarter to the east. Here they reared their family of four children—Laura Schermerhorn, Holt, Florence, and Mark. All the children are living.

My father died in 1905. We lived in Armour two years and rented the farm. Then we returned to the farm, built new buildings and together operated it until 1917 when my mother sold it to the Marten Brothers and bought a ranch in Perkins County. Mother died in 1921.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawson T. Kellogg

Mr. and Mrs. Lawson Kellogg settled eight miles northeast of Armour in 1884. They moved to Armour in 1899. He died in 1902 and she in 1925.

Lawson was one of the leading singing masters in the county in the early days. During a prairie fire in April, 1889, he took the family and household furniture out onto a 40-acre plowed field to escape the oncoming blaze. In spite of his precautions, a stray spark ignited the furniture and it was destroyed. When the fire reached the farm buildings, the barn was consumed but the house was left standing.

There were three Kellogg children: Frank, who died in 1937; Henry, who married Maggie Breen and died in 1957; and Fred, who married Cora Robinson and died in 1948. She died in 1958. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kellogg's children include — deceased: Earl, Lloyd, Claire, and Donald; and living children: Mrs. Grace Hawkes and Mrs. Ruth Giles.

Mr. and Mrs. George Kelly

Jessie Henry came in 1883 with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Henry, to Grand

View Township, where she lived until her marriage to George Kelly in 1902. He died in 1914 and she in 1956. Their daughter, Katherine, lives in Armour.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kiel

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kiel came from Michigan in March of 1889 and settled on a farm north of Armour. He died in 1916 and she in 1917. Deceased children are Lambert Kiel, Trena McMillan, Kate Muilenberg, Hattie Graves, and an infant child. Living children are John, Steve, Jennie Slykhuis, Edith Blume, and Henry.

Even Kinde

Even Kinde homesteaded six miles south of Armour in 1895. He died in 1935. His brothers were Anton and Halvor.

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Kirchhevel

By Mrs. Lewis Rada

The family was originally from Taratina in South Russia. They lived in the village and farmed the fields around it. While residing there, the oldest child, a daughter, Dorathea, was born on January 10, 1891.

The family with about 14 other families emigrated to America in the latter part of 1893. After docking at New York City, the group boarded a train to the Midwest. The Kirchhevel family stayed with the Fred Huber family at Freeman for a few weeks until employment was found for Mr. Kirchhevel.

In July of 1894, the Kirchhevel and Strohschein families moved to Lyman county to join other settlers there. They were there only two weeks when a prairie fire burned most of their belongings. A sod house is credited with saving the lives of many that day. By combining the remaining equipment and teams, they headed back east. They stopped near Delmont at a Beirwagen farm, two miles west and one mile north of Delmont. From there they moved to a sod house on the John Grosz farm. It was while living there that a second child, a daughter, Rosina, was born on July 25, 1894.

They soon moved to an empty house on a Ziebart farm where they spent one winter. In the spring, 1895, they moved to a sod house on the Jacob Will land where they lived for about a year. The following year they moved again to a Chris Banko farm, where they farmed about three years. Here, a daughter, Lydia, was born on July 21, 1896.

The following winter was very severe with deep snows beginning in October and lasting until spring. The family considered this one of the worst winters they could recollect.

In 1898, on May 10, the family made the final move to their farm, seven miles west and one mile south of Armour. They lived in a small wooden shanty while they constructed a sod house. By winter there was one room finished for living quarters, while the other half of the structure was used for the livestock. The 3½-foot thick walls kept out the severe cold winds of the prairie winters. On December 22, 1898, the fourth child, a son, Emil, was born.

The following summer a sod barn, with a hay roof, was built. A granary to store the crops was also built. During the spring and summer, the floor of the granary was removed and the building was used for a horse barn. In the fall the floor was replaced and it became a storage bin again. As time went on, more buildings were built and improved, and two more quarters of land were bought for farming.

Seeds brought over from the old country were planted and this furnished garden vegetables in early years. Seeds were carefully saved from every harvest for the spring planting the next year. Though coyotes were a menace, geese, ducks, and turkeys were raised for food and feathers. An orchard was a necessary part of every homestead, and the Kirchhevel family had a fine example. Grandpa Kirchhevel often went hunting for rabbits and wild game with an old muzzle-loader gun. One Fourth of July several years later, Dora, Emil, and a cousin, Ed Kirchhevel, and Helen Pfahl decided to use the gun to explode caps, such as those used in small cap guns. After packing it with several caps, they pulled the trigger. There was an explosion and a huge hole in the floor only inches from their feet.

The worst problems of early settlement days were getting food, fuel, and water. There were no trees yet, so twisted hay and "cow chips" served as a main source of fuel. Many shallow wells were dug, but few produced a lasting source of water. A good shallow well was located by a neighbor, a stepson of John Guether, by the use of a willow reed. This was almost one-half mile from the farmstead, and across a lake bed which made it difficult to reach during times when the lakes were filled with water, or during the winter when the livestock had to be

watered from pails or a tub. The water was drawn by pail and rope, and later by a pulley. It was then hauled to the farmstead in a barrel on a platform of skids. A tubular well was drilled in the year 1903.

The sod house was improved and enlarged to three rooms. It was their home for about ten years. During this time, the rest of the family was born. William was born on January 24, 1901; Christine on December 22, 1903; and Martha on June 6, 1905.

The family survived a cyclone on May 26, 1908, by sheltering in this sod house. The rest of the farm was leveled by the storm, which began about 6:00 p.m. and lasted until after midnight. The storm was accompanied by huge hail stones, up to the size of baseballs, and around six inches of rain. It was believed that there must have been twisters with the storm. One wooden barn was completely demolished. Pieces were found in the neighbor's pasture, where the team was found grazing without injury. Some of the halter straps were still tied to parts of the manger in that field. The sod barn lost its roof, but the animals inside were safe. The wagons and buggies were floating in the lake bed east of the farm. A smoke house was destroyed and the hams were found floating in the lake. Chickens that survived were featherless.

Building of the new barn and a wooden frame house was begun shortly after this. The house, though unoccupied, still remains at the site, but the barn was destroyed by fire in October, 1955. The farmstead is now owned by Melvin Miller, a grandson of the Kirchhevels.

Michael Kirchhevel was a charter member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, which was a landmark one mile south of their farm for 47 years until it was disbanded in 1953. Michael died on March 23, 1938, and Mrs. Kirchhevel lived to be 92 years old and died on February 12, 1954. Both are buried in St. Paul's Cemetery, two miles west of the former church site.

Two children are deceased. The youngest, Martha, died in 1953 and Rosie in 1957.

Living children are:

Dora Moeller, who lives southwest of Armour. Her husband died in 1954. Children are Melvin, Mrs. Kunz, and Mrs. Rada at Armour; Reno of Illinois; and Mrs. Jackley of Montana.

Lydia Huber, Minnesota. Her husband

died in 1937. She reared the seven children.

Emil, of Armour. He and his wife and two sons live east of Armour. Two other sons live nearby.

William and his wife, the former Alvina Knodel, live in Armour. They have two sons.

Christine Triebwasser lives at Salem. She has three children and three grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Knapp

C. O. Knapp and Alice Dillman were married in 1887. She had come to Dakota in 1882 when her parents took up a claim near Armour. C. O. had a creamery, cheese factory, and a stock ranch west of Armour. His brother, Fred, drove the stage coach between Armour and Castalia, and later lived with the C. O. Knapp family. All are deceased. Alice died in 1925. Fred died in 1939.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Koehn

By Mrs. August Schumacher

In the spring of 1881, my parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Koehn and friends emigrated from Wisconsin to Dakota Territory. My dad homesteaded in the northeastern part of Douglas County. He came with a carload of such things as farm implements, a breaking plow, a grass mower, wagon, span of horses, and household furniture, among which my mother had a sewing machine. They brought along a barrel of smoked ham and bacon. Dad had a heavy wooden oak box built into which they had put many sacks of flour and Mother gave some to folks from the old country who could not bring food and did not have much money. Since Mother had a sewing machine, she also did all kinds of sewing for people who had expected to find seamstresses available. My mother said she was happy in this new wilderness and never wished to return to Wisconsin. I was born in September of 1881.

Mother's neighbors were very grateful and said, "God will pay you," and when Mother was old she said she had been repaid richly. People underwent hardships; there were cold winters, droughts, and hail. But they had gatherings at which women held feather strippings and quilting bees. In the evening, the men often came and played cards, and coffee and lunch would be served.

How well I remember the morning of the January 12, 1888, blizzard. In the morning the weather was mild, cloudy, and not at all cold. Dad came from the barn and said

he was out of tobacco and said he would try to borrow some from the neighbors. He wasn't gone long when it suddenly began to snow heavily. Mother went to the door with a boiler and hammered upon it. She thought Dad might hear her pounding if he was near and could not see the house. In the afternoon he suddenly came in, his head bundled up with a big, red tablecloth. He started from the neighbors thinking if he could strike the fence which led to the barn, he could get there safely. He reached the barn and got some steers from the feed lot into the barn. He then aimed for the house which he nearly missed. He ran into a cultivator which wasn't far from the house, but by that time had lost all sense of direction and started calling. Of course, we did not hear him. Then he happened to look up and see the chimney. By this time we were getting short of fuel, since no one bought coal in those days. Mother had gone to the cellar and had broken up boxes and small nail kegs. When that was gone, we burned Dad's seed corn, which he had stored upstairs. My brother was 6 and I was 7. We did not go to school because we had no school yet.

My father died in 1928 and my mother in 1936. I married August Schumacher in 1906 and after three years on the farm, we purchased the Hillside Store with my brother, Willie. We lived there until 1946 when we retired and moved to Mitchell.

My husband died in 1955. Eight years ago we went to live with our daughter and family, the Oscar Sheetzes. Since I was stricken with arthritis, I am bedridden.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kolecka

By Allen Kolecka

Joseph Kolecka came to South Dakota in the early spring of 1896 from Madison, Nebr., and settled on a homestead four miles south and two miles east of Armour in Charles Mix County. His brother, Albert, and he traveled by team and wagon across the ice of the Missouri River at Niobrara. They were aided by an old Indian guide who said he knew where the ice was thick enough to cross, but they could hear the ice cracking under the heavy loads.

As they traveled on northwestward, they found more snow, and when they arrived at the old Kennedy Post Office, about ten miles south of Armour, the snow was two feet deep on the level. They left one wagon and



Joseph Kolečka Farm Home, Taken in Early 1900's.

continued with four horses on the other wagon. Later they returned for the other wagon.

Joseph's wife, Mary, and son, one-year-old Edward, came out later in the spring. That first year some of the sod was plowed up and flax planted. A one-room house, barn, hen house, and other small buildings were built. Their first and closest neighbor was the late Harry Messinger, who homesteaded one-half mile south of their place.

In the early years, many Indians traveled by their place, going to Armour for supplies. Some of the old wagon trails can still be seen in an old pasture or prairie near the homestead.

Rattlesnakes were numerous in those days. Mrs. Kolečka once killed a rattler just a short way from where she had clothes hanging on the line.

The weather was often bad and they went through a terrible cyclone on May 26, 1908, which killed chickens and small pigs. It destroyed several of their buildings and carried parts of them a mile east to Chocteau Creek. The winters were long and severe and when young Edward was in school, he had to spend one blizzard night there as it was impossible for his father to get him. The small children were taken to a nearby farm home by the teacher and everyone survived the experience.

Good crops were raised in the wet years, but there were other dry years when there were dust storms (in the 30's) and other pests, such as grasshoppers, cut worms and chinch bugs to bother the farmer. Twice in his lifetime, Joseph saw Lake Andes dry enough to walk across, south of where Bass Beach now stands.

Later, Joseph bought a farm in Douglas County and the family moved there in 1911.

This place was steadily improved and the parents resided there until their deaths. Mrs. Kolečka died in 1945 and Mr. Kolečka in 1946.

All four of the Kolečka children live near Armour. Edward is married and lives on one of his father's farms, six miles south and two miles east of Armour. Allen is married and lives on another family farm, five miles south and two east of Armour; and Albina and Adella live on the home place in Douglas County. Joseph and Mary have five grand children and five great grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. John Kornder

Mr. and Mrs. John Kornder settled southeast of Armour in 1896. Children were Elizabeth, John, Frank and Howard.

Mr. and Mrs. August Krueger

Mr. and Mrs. August Krueger came to Grand View Township in 1897 where they farmed. He died in 1910 and she in 1938.

The LaClair Family

By Eva LaClair Herbert

March 14, 1884, Grandpa and Grandma Marsh, parents of Susie, Julia and Emily; DeEtte Lang (now Mrs. DeEtte Reese of Mitchell, S. Dak); Ben, Jim, and Bert LaClair, and Sarah LaClair Brown, came from Brandon, Wisconsin. Mr. and Mrs. Ben LaClair (she was Emily Marsh) were the parents of Bert, Jim and Sarah. All are deceased.

Bert LaClair married Lizzie Greene in 1898 and lived seven miles northeast of Armour. Bert came from Wisconsin when he was 13. They had five children: Eva, L. B., Elmer, Amy and Gene. In 1922 they moved to Sacramento where they lived on a ranch until 20 years ago when they moved into Sacra-

mento. He died four years ago and she, five years ago. Bert's farm, northeast of Armour, now owned by Bill Blume, was known as "Hunky Dory" farm.

Jim LaClair went to California from Armour and made his home with the Bert LaClair family for 17 years. He has been dead for 22 years. Sarah Brown died four years ago in New York.

Dr. and Mrs. Bion LaShier

Dr. Bion LaShier practiced medicine at Grand View from May, 1883 to 1886, when he moved to Armour. He married Elizabeth Downey in 1893. The family lived at Armour until January 5, 1920, when they moved to California. Dr. LaShier died March 30, 1920, in California. Their children were Bion and Allouise.

Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Lau

Marcus Lau came from Holstein, Germany, to Beecher, Illinois, when he was about 21. He married Doris Storm in February of 1883. In 1894 they came to Armour by train, with their livestock and personal possessions. Marcus' brother, Chris, came also and farmed one year with Marcus.

They lived on the John Bean farm across from Ed Fuoss' for one year; on the Sheeney place (now the Richard Fink farm) two years; on the Wilson place five years; and then purchased the Kellogg place, one-half mile west of St. Peter's Church. This place is still owned by the family.

Marcus also served as a County Commissioner. Both Mr. and Mrs. Lau are deceased. Their children are John, who died in 1958; living children—Henry, Mrs. Margaret Reinfield, and Mark.

Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Leddy

Mr. and Mrs. E. H. "Capt." Leddy were married in 1877, and in 1898 moved to Armour where he was employed by the Carlon Elevator until they moved to their farm nine miles west of Armour in 1906. Both are deceased. Two children are deceased—Jim and Ed. Living children are Grat, John, William, Mrs. Anna O'Brien, and Mrs. Catherine King.

Joseph Lester

Joseph Lester was born in England in 1836. He lived with an uncle in London for three years, 1850-1853, and saw the Great Exhibition of 1851, Duke of Wellington's

funeral, and Queen Victoria. In 1867 he came to America with his wife and family. His wife died in 1872. They had five children: Will, Emma, Annie, Mary Allie, and Ed.

June 2, 1881, he shipped his furniture and some machinery and arrived in Mitchell on June 6 with Emma, Annie, Mary and Ed. Will came in the spring of 1882. They loaded a wagon with some of their goods and left Mitchell for Douglas County on June 8. All the creeks were full of water and since there were no bridges, they were stuck five times and had to unload and carry their goods across the creek. They reloaded after the team pulled the empty wagon across. They arrived at Choteau Creek on June 10. The children stayed with Mrs. Scott for over two weeks. Mr. Lester went immediately to his claim, 3 miles east and 1½ north, just west of the present home of the Bigge Brothers. There he set up a tent. That evening, a heavy thunderstorm blew the tent over.



Front row (left to right): Annie (McLarty), Emma (Williams), Allie (Palmer). Back row: Will and Ed Lester.

At that time, there was no post office, church, school or store in the county. He hauled lumber for his home from Mitchell, and poles for the barn and corral from the Missouri River bluffs. He helped organize the first school at Huston in 1882. Not long after, a Baptist Church, blacksmith shop, and store were built at that place, too.

In 1883, Joseph married Mrs. M. Marth and they moved one-half mile north and one mile west, where they filed on a tree claim. They lived on this farm for 18 years. Mr. Lester started a cheese factory there. He collected milk from his neighbors to make into cheese. In 1901, they moved to Armour where they lived until his death in 1911.

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Litz

Philip and Sophia Litz came to Armour in 1892 where he had a blacksmith shop for 18 years. They then moved to his farm southwest of Armour. He died in 1925 and she in 1953.

Deceased children are Richard, who was killed, in 1917, in an accident in his father's blacksmith shop when he was 25 years old. Albert died in 1943. Living children are Mrs. Ella Cheeseman of Armour, and Mrs. Clara Margeson of California.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Loeffler

Mr. and Mrs. Henry H. Loeffler were married in 1894 and came to Armour in 1897 where they operated a hardware store for many years. They lived in the same home on north main for over 39 years. Their children were Alice, Lois, Carl, and Donald who died in infancy. Mr. Loeffler died in 1941 and Mrs. Loeffler in 1953.

Mr. and Mrs. August Loken

Mr. and Mrs. August Loken settled southwest of Armour, August 1, 1895. He died in 1940 and she in 1921. They were charter members of the East Lake Andes Lutheran Church, south of Armour.

Deceased children: Conrad, Minnie, Mrs. Ada Sprick. Living children: Clara, Theo., Mrs. Viola Monroe, Mrs. Elvira Flick, and Mrs. Alice Bagewell.

E. E. Lothrop

E. E. Lothrop came in 1890 from Nebraska and was one of the firemen in the great Chicago fire, which razed the city.

Chris Luymes

Chris Luymes was born in 1882 and came to Armour about 1898, where he was a harness maker for 35 years. In 1933, he moved to Britt, S. D., and later to Emery.

Mr. and Mrs. Jefferson Manbeck

Jefferson Manbeck came to Douglas County in 1878. He farmed and later moved to Armour, where he worked as a veterinarian. He worked hard for the Mulehead Dam site and power plant. He died in 1942. His wife died in 1950. Children were Charles, D. F., Mrs. Ruth Fultz, Mrs. C. Vandavelde, and Mrs. Carl Hansen.

Susie Marsh

Susie Marsh came to Douglas County with her parents in 1883. She taught school

in Douglas County for 13 years. She died in 1937.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert D. Mather

Albert Mather came to the Choteau Creek Valley in Douglas County in 1880, where he filed a homestead. Mrs. Mather came in 1881. Albert was a descendant of Cotton Mather, American theologian and author. When Douglas County was organized in 1882, he was the first county treasurer and later served as vice president of the Citizens State Bank of Armour. Both are deceased.

They had one daughter, Mrs. Lelia Florey, who is deceased. There were four Florey children. Three are living—Ray Florey, who farms east of Armour; Mrs. Mildred Catherman, who lives in Armour; and Mrs. Ruth Catherman, who lives in Oregon. A grandson, Royce Florey, is deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. William Matteson

William Matteson homesteaded at Armour in 1891. He brought his wife to Armour as a bride in 1892. They resided on the old Walsh place where he planted a grove. They moved to Armour in 1902 where he became a rural mail carrier. He drove 33 miles a day and changed horses half-way. He had the route until 1915, when he suffered a stroke. He died in 1917. Mrs. Matteson died in 1939.

They had three children. A son, George, is deceased. Living children are Ray and Mrs. Gladys McConnell, Glendale, Calif.

Lewis McCullum

Lewis McCullum lived on the W $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 9. He homesteaded there in 1889. He came from LeMars, Iowa. His last known address was Napa, Idaho. His farm was later known as the Jacobsen farm, where N. F. Jacobsen lived for 51 years.

Mr. and Mrs. William McConnell

William and Emily McConnell and their children, Alice, William, and Marie, settled five miles northeast of Armour in 1897 and moved from Burbank, S. Dak. Agnes, Clellan, Ronald and Virgil were born while the family lived at Armour. All seven children graduated from Armour High School and were active in school activities.

The family moved one mile northeast of Armour in 1910. Mr. McConnell held several public offices, local and state. Will and

Emily would have been married 50 years in October of 1941, but he died in March of that year. Mrs. McConnell moved to California where she lived until her death in 1955.

All seven children are living: Alice Hines, Pierre; William, Tucson, Ariz.; Marie, Agnes and Clellan, California; Ronald, Montana; and Virgil, Idaho.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert McKinnon

By Norman McKinnon

Robert McKinnon, my father, began working as a telegraph operator at Sioux Falls in 1889. About 1891, he relieved the first agent at Armour and served as agent and telegraph operator until 1917. My mother was the former Nico Raben. Her father, B. P. Raben, was born in Denmark and fought with the Danes against Germany. As the provinces in which he lived became part of Germany, he fought with the Germans in the "Franco-Prussian War." He decided to come to America and located at Armour. He was a skilled millwright and artisan and built the Douglas County Roller Mills and a home nearby. Mother's sisters were Anne, Christine, Lena and Dora, and her brothers, Dayton, Peter, and Arnold.

Mother and Dad were married in her parents' home in Armour in 1893 and lived over the depot until I entered the first grade. Then Dad bought a home northwest of the school. For twelve years I had only to cross the road to school.

In those days everything centered around the depot. With passenger trains, freights, teamsters, etc., life was exciting. One night Dad and a clerk were working late, when the waiting room door opened and in walked 50 Sioux Indians in feathers and paint. The leader greeted Dad and said something in Sioux. Dad stepped back where he couldn't be seen and gave the clerk a note to take to Wes Poulsen, Indian Commissioner, who lived in Armour. The clerk and Wes returned quickly. The chief talked with Wes in Sioux and Wes explained they merely wanted Dad to be their guest at a big ceremonial dance. Dad was relieved as Indians could be unfriendly. The Indians used to camp near the roundhouse and were fascinated by the roundtable, which reversed the engines.

My father died in 1942 and Mother in 1951. Living children are Norman, Marie Patrick, Doris Barton, Robert, and Stanley.

Frank McPhillips

Frank McPhillips came to Douglas County in 1882 and settled upon a government claim in Section 15, Township 98, Range 63. He married Anna Baird in 1870. Children: Mary and Agnes.

Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Mead

By Dr. S. F. Mead

H. B. Mead came to Douglas County from Greenwich, Conn., in 1883 or 1884. His homestead was located eight miles west and one mile north of Armour. After receiving his patent from the government, he engaged in the farm machinery business in Armour for a few of those dry years in the early nineties.



H. B. Mead Family. Taken About 1900. Left to right: H. B. Mead, Howard, Bessie, Margaret, and Frank.

He later became the first mail carrier in Douglas County, at a starting salary of \$50 per month. He married Lora Stockwell. There are three surviving children: Margaret (Mrs. R. H. Arvidson) of Austin, Minn.; Frank (Dr. S. F. Mead), Armour; and Elizabeth (Mrs. B. E. Haining) of Minneapolis. Mr. Mead died in 1940 and Mrs. Mead in 1958.

Mr. and Mrs. Klaas Menning

By Mrs. Arie Hoekman

Mr. and Mrs. Klaas Menning came to the United States in October of 1881 from the Netherlands, with their five children, Susan, James, John, Mary and Cynthia. They lived in Alton, Iowa, a year and then moved to Harrison, S. Dak., where they lived on a farm northeast of Harrison. In 1883 they filed on a claim, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 33 in Township 100, north of Range 63. They made final proof of their claim on October 26, 1887.

Farm buildings were made of sod and the family lived in a sod house several years,



KLAAS MENNING FAMILY. Front row, left to right: Cynth'a, Klaas (father), Ollie DeVries, Hattie Vreeman, Aaltje (mother), Simon, Allie DeVries. Back row: John, Mary Ligtenberg, James, Susan Shimp.

going through all the hardships of pioneers. Klaas tested for water with a willow stick and dug many wells for the early settlers.

Later, they bought what is the present Art Bergakker farm, and moved there. The early Christian settler felt a need for a place of worship. After a meeting in the Grand View school house, a church building was bought and a church was organized in 1885 which today is the Grand View Church of Armour. The Klaas Mennings were active in assisting in organizing this church and both were members until their deaths, at which time they had retired and were living in Corsica.

Deceased children: Cynthia, Ollie (Mrs. Guy DeVries), Allie (Mrs. Gerrit DeVries), John, Mary (Mrs. Fred Ligtenberg), James, Susan (Mrs. E. Shimp). Living children: Simon and Hattie (Mrs. Wm. Vreeman), Corsica.

H. J. Messenger

H. J. Messenger homesteaded six miles southeast of Armour in 1895. He married Josie Lantz in 1912. He died in 1935 and she in 1953. His stepson, Arlington Lantz, now lives on the farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Meyer

By John L. Meyer

My father, Cornelius Meyer, came to South Dakota in the spring of 1889 with a team and wagon from Pella, Iowa. He bought

a homestead 2½ miles east of Grand View (9 miles northeast of Armour) and planted a crop. Later that spring, the family came to Plankinton, the nearest railroad town, by train. He met us there with the team and wagon. My parents lived on this homestead until their deaths. Mother died in 1919 and Father in 1931. Walter now lives on the home place.

Two children are deceased, Peter and Ollie. Living children are Edward, Mina Brummel, Mary Jane Thomas, and Rev. Ira Meyer, all of California; and Walter and John L. Meyer of Armour.

Peter Meyer and Susie Fortrie were married in 1897 on a farm about ten miles northeast of Armour. In 1907 he purchased a farm west of Grand View and he and his brother, John, broke the land with horses and a walking plow. They lived on this farm until they retired and moved to Armour in 1947. She died in 1953 and he in 1955. Their children are Iona DeHaai, Jennie Mae Scholten, Lena DeVries, Martha Van Zee, and Cornelius (Bud) Meyer.

John Meyer married Eva Balluff in 1910. They farmed in the Armour area many years. She died in 1951. One daughter, Mrs. Muriel Meyer, died in 1948. Living children are Boyd of Alexandria, S. Dak.; Mrs. Elaine Albertson of New Jersey; and Norman of Pennsylvania. John is retired and lives in Armour. He is married to Minnie Bruning Jarvis.

Walter Meyer is married to Ruth Darling.

They live on the homestead his father, Cornelius, purchased in 1889. Mrs. Meyer is a music teacher. Their children are Loren of Fairmont, Minn.; and Mrs. Art Lang of Delmont.

Mr. and Mrs. William Moore

William Moore came to Douglas County from Cleveland, Ohio, in the fall of 1883, where he engaged in the hardware and machinery business. In 1888 he moved to Armour. For a time he was associated with H. B. Mead in the implement business. He also operated the Armour Roller Mill and was postmaster here. He married Hattie Long in 1891. Their children were William A. and Lucius Wells.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Marten

Alfred and Margaretha Marten moved in 1899 from Walnut, Iowa, to a farm seven miles northwest of Armour. He died in 1916 and she in 1952. Children are Walter, Erich (Ed), Alfred (Art), Otto, Ludwig (Toots), and Olaf (Slim). A daughter, Bertha, died in 1918.

Mr. and Mrs. Gottlieb Moke

Mr. and Mrs. Gottlieb Moke settled in Washington Township in 1883. He was organist and choir director at St. John's Lutheran Church near Hillside for many years. He died in 1908 and his wife, Anna, in 1939. Deceased children are Fred, Anna, and Bertha. Living children are Otto, Gottlieb, Gottfried, Emma, Dora, Gertrude, and Selma.

Mr. and Mrs. Emmet Montgomery

By Jessie Shanahan

Emmet Montgomery, at the age of 14, homesteaded with his parents, Thomas and Martha, on a farm in Douglas County. The family, including two other sons, Will and Fred, immigrated from Marshalltown, Iowa, in 1882. After the death of his parents, Emmet made his home with his brother, Will, and wife until his marriage to Lillie Roberts in 1895. Their first home was on a farm seven miles north of Armour. Besides farming, he was one of the pioneers who helped break the prairie sod for flax planting.

Prior to the time railroads were built in the territory, supplies were brought by boat on the Missouri River to Greenwood. From there men with teams of horses and wagons carried the goods over rough prairie roads to small towns springing up. For a time, Mr.

Montgomery hauled freight from Greenwood to Grand View. In 1903, he moved the family to Armour where he was in the construction business until his death in 1943.

His wife, Lillie, was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Roberts who came to Douglas County from Wisconsin in 1893. She was active in civic affairs, and was president of the Armour Cemetery Association for several years. She died in 1955. One son, Bert, died in 1907. Surviving children are Hazel Knight and Louise Hewitt of California; Artis Bath of Illinois; Jessie Shanahan of Armour, S. Dak.; and Earl of Wyoming.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Montgomery

J. W. Montgomery came to the Armour vicinity in 1885. In 1889 he married Emma Cosby. In 1907 they moved to Wolsey where he was a grain buyer. She died in 1929 and he in 1946. Their children were T. O., Mrs. Frank Allen, Iva, Mrs. V. R. Peterseon, and Mrs. Lela Van Allen.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Morgan

By Della Morgan Ueberrhein

My father, Frank C. Morgan, was one of the earliest settlers in Iowa Township. He had planned to go to Indian Territory in what is now Oklahoma, but when he and his brother reached St. Joseph, Mo., they learned that settlers were being arrested for trespassing on Indian lands and they turned back and decided to go to Dakota Territory.

One of the first men he met in Douglas County was Captain Houston, who helped many settlers locate their claims; I think this was in 1881. At any rate, Father returned in 1882 to put up buildings and break ground. At this time the end of the railroad was at Mitchell, a very crude frontier town. Lumber and supplies had to be hauled from there so he brought some tools, horses and a dog. Somewhere along the way to Mitchell, the dog was accidentally left behind. Naturally, he never expected to see the dog again, but when father returned to Mitchell after two weeks on the homestead, he found the dog guarding his belongings. Evidently, the dog had followed the railroad to Mitchell and discovered his master's gear.

In June, 1883, Father returned to Iowa to marry Abbie Irwin, a school teacher. They came back to Douglas County by way of Yankton and drove from Scotland to the new home located on SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 24

99-65. The house he built is still in use, but has had several additions. The original house had four rooms, two of them upstairs.

Albert Grant lived with his parents, about a mile west of us. One of my earliest recollections was hearing of the death of Fleet Grant, Al's younger brother, who was accidentally shot as he crawled through a fence, carrying a gun.

Five children were born to the family. In 1884, Junie Ethel and a tiny brother were born. The boy lived only a few days and was buried a short distance from the house where we kept the place marked with a circle of small stones. There was no cemetery in Grand View, the only town in the county, just six miles away. Junie was a teacher and in 1923 married C. E. Stried of Delmont. Both are deceased. Charles was born in 1886. Della Elizabeth was born on January 9, 1888, known locally as the "blizzard baby" because the storm of 1888 came three days later. Frank was born in 1889 and died in 1891. Charles farmed many years and is now living in Omaha. I, Della, became a teacher at 15, worked my way through college, taught in high schools in South Dakota, Iowa, and Missouri, was county superintendent of schools in Douglas County from 1923-1927, and married Karl Ueberrhein in 1929. He died in 1959 at Nevada, Mo., where we have lived since 1935. My father died at my home in Nevada in 1945; he was almost 99 years old. Mother died in Armour in 1933.

The first school house in Iowa Township was built of sod and in our pasture. After it was wrecked by our bull, a frame school was built at the southwest corner of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 24, north of our land, in 1883. It was a typical six-window, one-room school with a long stovepipe running almost the full length, resulting in a smoke-blackened ceiling and walls. As the Methodist Church services were held there for some time, it also had an organ and organ "box." Sometimes the school loft was used to punish bad boys but often the organ was moved out and the box became a more convenient lock-up. It was completely dark and not too appealing. The first teacher in the Morgan School was Jefferson Stickney, who had a "tree claim," south of our homestead. Another early teacher was D. F. Small. My first teacher was Miss Jennie Scott. I had learned to read and was allowed to go to school in the spring after my fourth birthday. Charlie

had started to school and I had learned from him.

The Allen Spaurs lived one mile south; the Boss family, one and one-half miles east. I remember splashing through snow, slush and mud. We children used a scoop shovel for a toboggan and had many a spill. In summer we rolled down hills in an empty barrel, bracing our hands and feet.

In early days, open range was allowed, which meant horses and even cattle could be turned loose, after crops were gathered, to browse on stubble, dry grass or cornstalks. Most farmers kept one horse in the lot so they could round up their stock when needed. Father had a strong voice and could call his horses home from a mile or more.

I also remember going down into our storm cellar when a tornado threatened. I do not believe Mother ever went down; she always could find things she had to do first. Fortunately, we never had a real tornado strike, but once our hayrack and wagon were driven halfway through our barn by a straight wind.

The Big Sioux Reservation was within four miles of our home and Indians came to trade wild grapes and plums for chickens and garden truck. Mother never showed fear. If the woman of the house showed she was afraid, they sometimes became bold, demanding food or catching chickens.

Lack of drinking water was the greatest problem settlers had to face. Most of the shallow wells, dug by hand, were filled with hard, brackish water, unpleasant to taste and almost impossible to "break" for washing clothes. We hauled water from the Thistle Brothers' homestead in barrels on a stoneboat, a crude sled made from logs or planks, and dragged by a team of horses. The stoneboat's main use was to haul stones from fields.

Many of the prairie fires came from burning off weeds and stubble before plowing. With water shortage and plenty of wind, it was easy to let a fire get out of control. Father always plowed a strip of ground around the house.

One year, 1891, I think it was, there was a tremendous crop and everything grew out of proportion. I have heard my parents tell of the huge vegetables. One potato weighed several pounds and was enough for six adults and a child or two for three meals.

By the time I was born, Armour had been started but we traded at Grand View. Later,

we went to Armour. It seems Papa said almost half of the buildings in Grand View were bodily removed to Armour. Papa always went to "town" on Saturday. It was an all-day trip, driving trading, visiting — and was really necessary, to sell butter (Mother was famous for her good butter), eggs, poultry, grain, livestock, and buy supplies.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred C. Neugebauer

Fred C. Neugebauer came to Douglas County in 1880 and lived in Washington Township. He died in 1936. His wife, Emma, still lives on the same place. He was a County Commissioner when the plans for the present courthouse in Douglas County were made. All the children are living. They are Bertha, Alma, Walter, Dorothy, Albert, Gerhard, Delores, Erna, Gottfried, Otto, and Lorenz.

Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Norton

Tim came to Armour in 1898 and did watch repairing in the Crutchett Drug Store. In 1899 he bought the Crutchett repair business and rented space in Dr. LaShier's Drug Store, and set up his jewelry, watch repair and optometry business. After a short stay of less than a year in the Drug Store, he rented a building that became vacant and about six years later, he borrowed money and erected his own store building.

He has been in business longer than any other individual in Armour. Although he has sold his watch repair and jewelry store, he continues to operate his optometry business.

Mrs. Norton (Jesse French) also came in 1898. She was a telephone operator for a while and was in the local post office for 27 years, eight years of which she served as postmaster.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Noteboom

Martin and Gertie Vander Ley Noteboom were married in 1879. Mr. Noteboom came to northern Douglas County by covered wagon in 1883, when that area had been opened for homesteading. He died on June 4, 1948. Mrs. Noteboom moved to Douglas County in 1883 from Pella, Iowa. She died August 1, 1927. Deceased children are Cora and Martin. Living children are Mary, Gertie, Mattie, Susanna, Arie, William, Gerrit, and Marian.

Mr. and Mrs. Karl Olawsky

Mr. and Mrs. Karl Olawsky settled in Washington Township in the fall of 1886. Karl occasionally served as lay pastor, in the absence of the regular pastor, at St. John's Lutheran church. He died in 1923 and his wife in 1951. Deceased children are Ernest and Anna. Living children are Oswald, Emma, Bertha, William, Herman, Emil, and Martha.

Accompanying the Karl Olawskys to America and Dakota Territory were Karl's mother and step-father, Donald Tintzman and Rosina, who homesteaded in the same section as Karl.

Mr. and Mrs. Oran Orcutt

Mr. and Mrs. Oran Orcutt came, in 1892, to Armour where he operated the Queal Lumber Company. He was a school board member and mason. Both are deceased. A son, Wade, died in 1938, and their daughter, Mrs. Mildred Krusemark, is living in Los Angeles, Calif. They lived in the Scherbarth house.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles G. Palmer

By Ray Palmer

Charles G. Palmer was born at Mazon, Ill., in 1863 and was educated in the public schools of Dixon, Ill. In 1886 he came to Douglas County where he taught school for several years. On January 12, 1888, he was at school with his pupils when the blizzard struck. He and the pupils stayed all night in the school house during the storm which took so many lives. Later his sister, Ida, and his father, Jonathan Palmer, settled in Douglas County.



Standing (left to right): Ed, Charles and Ida.
Seated: Father, Jonathon Palmer.

In 1889 he married Mary Allie Lester, who had come with her father, Joseph Lester, brother and sisters to Douglas County in 1881.

Mr. and Mrs. Palmer started housekeeping on a farm nine miles northeast of Armour where they lived nine years. In 1899 they bought a farm for \$10 an acre in Valley township, 3½ miles northeast of Armour. They moved into the sod house, which was on the place at that time. They lived their remaining days on this farm. He died in 1916 and she in 1924.

They had nine children: Dr. Earl, who died in 1949, Mary, Ray, Edward, Lois, Pearl, Charles, Lucile and Evelyn, who attended grade school in Valley Township and Armour High School.

Mr. and Mrs. George Palmer

George and Annie Palmer settled in Berlin, now Washington, Township in 1879. He died in 1941 and she in 1910. George Palmer was the first township clerk, and the first school board clerk, and served as such for many years. He also was justice of the peace. He broke the first furrow in Douglas County; was a member of the vigilante committee raiding Brownsdale; and took care of his ten acres of trees on "timber claim" with a hoe.

Mr. and Mrs. William Palmer

William and Eliza Palmer settled in Berlin (now Washington) Township in 1879. He died in 1913 and she in 1907. He was the first postmaster in Plainview, Douglas County, and also was appointed first County Judge by Governor Ordway. He was elected County Treasurer for two terms. Deceased children are George, Benjamin, Blanche, Rose, Winnia Sidman. Daughter, Ellen, died in infancy. There is one living child, Ralph W. Palmer, of Balsam Lake, Wisc.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Peacock

After Frank Peacock attended the University of Indiana, he taught school several years. He came to Scotland by train in 1882 and walked to Huston, where he located on a claim, two miles east of Armour. This farm is now owned by his grandson, F. J. Peacock. He taught school in Sargent Bluff in the winter of 1882 and 1883, and in 1884, married Elizabeth Brown, who lived in the little town of Huston. She came to be with

her brothers who were then keeping a store at Huston.

He served in the State Legislature for two terms, 1889 and 1891, was active in public affairs, and presided at the Douglas County courthouse dedication on February 22, 1928. He died in 1931 and she in 1911.

They had five children: J. W.; Catherine, who died at the age of two; Bell, who died at nine months of age; Earl, who died when 13 years old; and Mrs. Jean Mohr, who died at the age of 20. The children of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Peacock are Francis, James, Lloyd, Eileen, Catherine, Marguerite, and Beverly. Mrs. J. W. Peacock lives in Mitchell. J. W. died in 1937.

Mr. and Mrs. Enoch Pease

By C. P. Crutchett

Mr. and Mrs. Enoch Pease settled in Douglas County near Grand View, or one mile east and three miles north of Armour's site. In 1885, their oldest son, Addison, took a contract to operate a mail route from Scotland to Grand View for \$800 a year plus what he could get out of express and from passenger fare. The stage was tri-weekly, with every Saturday night and Sunday spent in Grand View.

Enoch Pease rented the Fletcher Hotel in Grand View, the winter of 1886-87, and went into the hotel business. Although Addison ran the stage and the driver was required to be 16, 14-year-old William often took over the route. Addison also became deputy for Harry Thompson, the county sheriff. The stage was discontinued the spring of 1887.

Enoch Pease got a Civil War pension in 1888 and used it to help pay for a house in Armour where they moved that fall. Enoch and Addison built a livery and feed barn across from the Court House square. They got a contract for carrying mail from Armour to White Swan and a contract for freighting government materials from Armour to Ft. Randall.

Enoch's son, Milton, lost his home, livestock, machinery, and everything he owned but the clothes he wore, in the April, 1889, disastrous prairie fire. Milton then went to Tacoma, Wash., to live.

In 1894, Enoch Pease and family went to Tennessee, but Addison remained in Charles Mix County on his homestead. The family returned later. Enoch died in 1901 and his wife in 1903. Their children, Milton, Moses,

Addison, William H., and Dora, are deceased.

William taught school for several years and worked for his uncle, Irvin Welch, in the bank at Edgerton. He married Mary Byrne in 1899. He was cashier and manager of the newly-formed Commercial State Bank at Wagner. Later, he moved to Minnesota. He wrote "Tales of Pioneering," an account of Douglas County history. He died in 1947. Their children are Cecil Webber, Oregon; Lois Stenglein, Minneapolis; William, Jr., St. Paul, Minn.; and Earl of Minneapolis, Minn.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Perrin

Peter and Elizabeth Perrin settled near Armour in 1879. Their children were Rev. Peter, Charles, Harry, and Ruth.

Mr. and Mrs. William Piner

William Piner and Mary Harmon were married in 1847 in England. They came to America in 1872 and settled in Chicago, later moving to Iowa. In 1884, they came to Douglas County and settled on a claim. She died in 1907 and he in 1909. Their children were James, William, John, Harry, Mrs. H. Bussel, Mrs. William Hawkes, Ben, and Maria.

Their son, Harry, married Ida Ensley. The Ensleys lived on a farm two miles west of Armour, in Armour, and then moved to Pierre. Their children were Azalia, Roy and Arthur. After Ida's death, Harry married Mrs. Jennie Sanders. Harry died in 1953.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Polkinghorn

By Mrs. Annetta Polkinghorn

Joseph William Polkinghorn was born in Cornwall, England, Jan. 25, 1854, and at the age of nine he came with his parents to America where they settled at Mineral Point, Wisc.

In the fall of 1882, he came to South Dakota and filed on a homestead seven miles northwest of Grand View, or 12 miles northwest of where Armour now stands.

In the spring of 1883, he moved on this homestead and on Thanksgiving Day of that year, he married Anna Pierce. Children were Mrs. Etta Mohr, deceased; Edgar Polkinghorn, deceased; and living in Armour is Lester Polkinghorn.

Mr. Polkinghorn was a continuous resident of South Dakota until his death, except for one year, 1895, that he and his family spent at his old home in Mineral Point,



Back row (left to right): Joseph (father) Polkinghorn, Etta, Anna (mother). Front row: Edgar and Lester.

Wisc. He died at Armour in 1936. He was preceded in death by his wife in 1924.

Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Poulson

Wesley and Mary Poulson came to Armour in 1891. He died in 1926; she in 1938.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ptak

By Irene DeGeest

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ptak came to Armour in 1895. He had lived in Plattsmouth, Nebr., and learned the cigar trade there and in Omaha. He started a cigar factory in Armour which he operated for many years. All cigars were hand-made. He traveled from town to town, by horse and buggy, selling cigars, and also went by train. At one time he hired seventeen men. His factory was over Raben's bank.

He was a member of the school board, the city council, Odd Fellow's Lodge, and Fire Department. Mrs. Ptak died in 1915 and he died at the age of 90 in 1961. A son, Alfred, died in 1905. Living children are Leon Ptak, Oklahoma, and Irene DeGeest, Huron.

B. P. and John Rabens

By D. H. Raben

The Douglas County Roller Mill was built in 1888 by Boy Peter Raben and his brother, John. B. P. Raben, his wife, five daughters and three sons came from Germany to Armour in 1888. John Raben, his wife and

three sons came to Armour in 1888 from Aurora, Nebr. Armour was two years old and the end of the railroad. It was a booming town and the trade center of a large territory. Grand View, the county seat, was located about five miles north of Armour.

John Raben's children, Charles and Dayton, operated a drug store at Armour. Both are deceased. Charles' wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Raben, lives in Rapid City. Otto, John's other son, is also deceased. Mrs. Clara Raben lives at Des Moines, Iowa.

The only survivors of the two families are D. H. Raben, his wife, Margaret Hewitt Raben, and their two sons, M. E. and Lyle, who are in the retail lumber business in Rapid City; and Arnold Raben, who is retired and lives in Hot Springs.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ray

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ray came to Armour in 1899. He died in 1946 and she in 1947. Three children are deceased. Son, Ed, lives at Detroit and daughter, Mrs. Stella Jordan, at Yankton.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Renshaw

Henry Renshaw came to Dakota Territory in 1883 and settled on a homestead. In 1892 he married Nancy Hudelson. Five children were born to them: Charles, Mary, Leo, Howard, and Beatrice. Henry died in 1940 and Nancy in 1944. He resided on his farm for 57 years.

Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Roberts, Sr.

Thomas B. Roberts, born in 1862, filed on land in Douglas County in 1881. He bought the *Chronicle* at Grand View in April, 1885, and published it at Grand View. He moved it to Armour in 1886, publishing it until 1901.

He also served as postmaster at Armour; as personal secretary to Senator A. Kittredge in Washington; served as Y. M. C. A. secretary; served in the World War for 18 months, spent 13 months in France and Germany; was Inspector of Indian Service; was Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Department of Interior; and operated the State Printing Company at Pierre.

He was married to Emma Meyer in 1885. He died in 1938 and his wife is also deceased. Children: Thomas B., Jr., died in 1950; Godfrey lives at Pierre. T. B.'s grandson, Godfrey Roberts, Jr., now operates the State Publishing Company at Pierre.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard P. Robinson

The family came on the train to Mitchell with three carloads of possessions. When the children became ill with the smallpox, he built a home in Mitchell in the vicinity of where the Corn Palace now stands for the family to live in until the quarantine was lifted. Mr. Robinson then came to Douglas County alone in the fall of 1881 and built a shack on his claim one mile north of Grand View. In the spring of 1882, the family moved from Mitchell to the claim.



Howard Robinson and horses at farm family homestead, north of Grand View.

He died in 1929 and she in 1926. They had two sons, Harold, who died in 1958, and Howard of Armour. His daughters by his first wife, who died, were Mrs. Cora Kellogg, who died in 1958, and Mrs. Grace Nixon, who lives in Rapid City.

Mr. and Mrs. John Ropes

John Ropes was foreman of *The Chronicle* when T. B. Roberts was the owner. Later, the family moved to California where he had a newspaper. They had two sons and one daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Ruck

In the fall of 1887, he filed a claim on a homestead, five miles west of Armour. In 1898 he married Effie League. Both are now deceased. Children were Mrs. Charles Denzin, Wakonda, and Mrs. Bernice Hobbs, Yankton.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ruff

By Mrs. H. Blume and Henry Ruff

Henry Ruff came to Douglas County with his brother, John, from Fremont, Nebr., in

a covered wagon in the fall of 1881. Henry filed his claim and returned to Nebraska for the winter. In the spring of April, 1882, he returned and settled on his claim permanently. He and his brother lived in a covered wagon while their sod house was being built. Mrs. Ruff came with her mother, Eva Engelland, and her brother, Detleff, from near Chicago, Ill., in March, 1886. They were married the same summer of 1886. They lived on their farm in Valley Township for over 50 years. He died in 1936 and she in 1940.

Henry served as commissioner in the 1890's, before 1900.

Their children were Minnie and Detleff, who died in infancy; three children, John, Margaret and Cecilia, who died within a short time of each other during the diphtheria epidemic in June of 1898; and living children, Mrs. Henry Blume and Henry Ruff of rural Armour, and Albert Ruff of Delmont.

Mr. and Mrs. Hendrick Scholten

Mr. and Mrs. Hendrick Scholten settled two miles east of Grand View in March of 1885. They came by train to Plankinton, S. Dak., from Lancaster, Mich. He helped organize the Grand View Reformed Church. She died in 1899 and he died in 1912. Deceased children are Herman, Benardus, Harry, Bertha (DeGeest), Jennie (Kiel), George, James, and Henrietta. Living children are Dr. Wm. Scholten, Kalamazoo, Mich., and Mrs. Harriet DeHaai, Stickney.

Harry Scholten married Effie DeVries in 1895. He died in 1939 and she died in 1957. Living children are Mrs. Bert VanDer Werff, and Gerrit of Armour; Mrs. Henry Kiel of Washington; and Leonard of Vermillion, S. Dak. Their sons, Earl died in 1919 and Edward in 1936.

Benardus Scholten married Maggie Schelhaas in 1890. He died in 1944 and she in 1937. They had nine children. Two are deceased—Hannah Mullenberg, who died in 1919, and Mabel, who died in 1906. Living children are Albert, who lives at Armour; John, Nina Teeselink, Ziena Bergakker, Conrad, Benardus, and Raymond.

In about 1894 during the drouth, Benardus, Sr., went to Sioux County, Iowa, to pick corn and earn a load of corn to feed his stock. He had a team of horses, two milk cows, and a few pigs. While he was away picking corn, the cows fell into the well and were killed.

In 1885 Hendrick purchased three quar-

ters of land. Two of these quarters were mortgaged and the other was a tree claim, on which he had to plant ten acres of trees within five years. This land was located one mile east, four miles north, and one-half mile east of Armour. Albert Scholten and his son, Roy, own two of the quarters. Don Van Der Werff, Hendrick's great-grandson, lives on the other quarter.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Schroeder

Carl and Mary Schroeder came to Douglas County in 1884, where they filed upon land. They lived five miles east and one-half mile north of Armour. He died in 1917 and she in 1918. Their children were Frank, Henry, Charlie, Louis, Fred, John, Carrie, and Minnie.

Their son, Fred, came with his parents in 1884, and married Wilhelmina Peters in 1893. Soon after their marriage, they made their home here. They always lived in the Armour area with the exception of six years spent in Oklahoma. They lived five miles east and one-half mile south of Armour, where Ray Florey now lives. Fred died in 1929 and his wife in 1945. Their children are Erna Banks, Sioux Falls; Franklin, Quincy, Wash.; Albert, Hazel Hrdlicka, and Carl, all of Armour; John, LeMars, Iowa; and Lawrence, Seattle, Wash. The oldest son, Milton, was killed by lightning on a farm in Idaho when he was 20 years old. Another son, George, died of pneumonia in 1938.

Another of Carl Schroeder's sons, Henry, and his wife, Frederike, settled on a farm, five miles east of Armour in 1887. Children were William, Frank, and Mrs. Edith Reinfield.

Miss Jennie Scott

Miss Jennie Scott bought a relinquishment four miles southwest of Grand View, and later, in 1884, filed on a homestead eight miles away and made final proof on it in 1889. She taught school many years, and in 1897, wrote and published a pamphlet, "Pioneer Life in Dakota." She also wrote about her trip to Palestine to a Sunday School convention at the turn of the century. She died in 1941.

Mr. and Mrs. Seymour Simpson

By C. P. Crutchett

Seymour and his brother, "Cap," homesteaded about 1882, not far south of where Corsica now stands, and Simpson Lake was

named for them. Mr. and Mrs. Seymour Simpson had three girls. The oldest, Sarah ("Pet"), married Frank Wheelock and lived in Chicago. She died in 1958 or 1959. In April, 1883, she was given Teacher's Certificate No. 1, the first issued in Douglas County, now in possession of the County Historical Society. She was the deputy in K. G. Foster's Register of Deeds office, and was a talented elocutionist. She was on the program at Grand View's July 4, 1885, celebration and at Armour's July 4, 1887, celebration. Kathryn, who died in 1935, married James Hotham and Belle married J. W. Fiscus. She died in 1939.

Simpson owned a meat market in Grand View several years. According to Harry Doty, his father William, helped Seymour butcher. The slaughtering was done on the Simpson farm and Indians camped nearby to receive parts of the beeves the white butcher did not want. Simpson served as Deputy U. S. Marshal for some years. His principal duties were to aid in apprehending violators of the law against selling liquor to the Indians.

Mr. and Mrs. George Sly

By William Sly

My father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. J. Sly, came to Dakota Territory the spring of 1883 by immigrant train and settled on a claim in Joubert Township west of Armour. After proving up on the claim they moved to Armour in 1886.

I was born in a sod house on May 11, 1887, so I don't remember the blizzard of Jan. 12, 1888, but do remember helping my grandmother gather hay which she twisted in compact twists and piled it up near the stove. I also remember a sheet metal boiler turned upside down, known as a straw burner, where we burned flax straw.

I enjoyed watching the Indians come into the southwest part of town where they pitched their teepees and slaughtered their beeves, cut the hides off and hung the meat up to dry, using the bones for soup; and they would have their Indian dances.

My father ran the bakery and restaurant known as Taylor and Sly restaurant.

My first teacher was Mrs. E. P. Wanzer.

My father helped to organize Washington Lodge at Armour and attended the First Grand Lodge I. O. O. F. of South Dakota at Yankton May 19, 1891, also the 6th Annual Rebekah Assembly I. O. O. F., May 21, 1895, at Yankton as a representative from Wash-

ington Lodge of Armour. He also was a member of the first Fire Department at Armour.

My mother (Priscilla) and Grandfather (Joseph Sly) are both buried in the Armour cemetery. My mother died in 1889 at Armour. My sister, now Mrs. Mabel Belt of Illinois, was born in Armour, Dec. 18, 1885.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Shaw

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Shaw took a claim in township 98, range 63, Douglas County in 1882 and lived there until 1887. They moved to Armour and operated a dray and express line. Later he was a partner in the general store of Eernisse and Shaw.

Mr. and Mrs. Elisha S. Sisson

Mr. and Mrs. Elisha Sisson and family settled on a claim in Douglas County near Grand View in 1884 where he farmed until he became ill in about 1907 and the family moved to Armour. He was a Civil War veteran and served in 174 Ohio Volunteers. He died in 1911. She is also deceased. Children: Lyle, Cora Stout, Maude Reed, and Pearl.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Smith

Charles P. and Hilda Smith settled April 10, 1883 about 5½ miles southwest of Armour. The farm was later known as Paul Nase farm. She died in 1924 and he in 1929. He was a plasterer and stone mason by trade and plastered many homes in Armour and area and also built several stone barns. The family later moved to Lyman and Fall River Counties, then to Platte, S. Dak.

Deceased children are Henry, Alvin, Frances and Ernest. Living children are Alma, Amelia, Nina, Edith and Dorothy.

Mr. and Mrs. Josiah Smith

He came to Douglas County in 1883 and homesteaded southeast of Armour. Later he purchased the Armour House and went into the real estate business. He died in 1932 and she died in 1927.

The Stockwell Family

By Dr. S. F. Mead

The Stockwell family came to Douglas County from Poweshiek County, Iowa, in the winter of 1882-83. The oldest son, Frank, homesteaded two miles west and three miles north of Armour. The second son, Arthur, homesteaded the place three miles west of Armour now owned by Hershel McNamar.

The homestead of the father, Winchester Stockwell, was at the three mile corner west, just across the road from his son, Arthur, which is now occupied by John Morrison.

The Winchester Stockwell family residing at the homestead in addition to himself and wife, consisted of a daughter, Lora, and two sons, Fred and John. Lora was the first Armour school teacher and later was married to H. B. Mead. Fred, now living at Bremond, Texas, is the only surviving member of this generation of Stockwells and is in his 90's.

Mr. and Mrs. George Storm

George Storm came to Armour in 1891, bought a farm in Valley Township, married Amanda Bertram in 1894. She died in 1909. He died in 1940. He served on the Valley Township school board. They had three children. A son, Ernest, died in 1952. There are two living daughters, Mrs. Amanda Reinfeld, Delmont, and Mrs. Marie Bertram, Needville, Texas.

Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Spaulding

By Frances Ruth Spaulding Neggen

My parents, Isaac Wirt Spaulding and Frances A. Batchelder, were married at the home of my grandmother, Mira Batchelder, in Grand View, Jan. 28, 1892, by Rev. L. T. John. Father had come to Hillside in 1880 with his parents, John F. and Marianne Palmer Spaulding and brothers, Dave and Dick. My mother, Frances Batchelder, came with her mother, Mira Batchelder, and brothers, Webster, Albert and Emery, by team of horses and wagon overland from Farley, Iowa, in September 1883. They rented the Wheeler place about 26 miles southwest of Plankinton, moved to Aurora County and then to Grand View.

My grandmother, Mira Batchelder, became postmistress at Grand View April 4, 1889, and served until Jan. 20, 1892. Mother (Frances) became mail carrier at the age of 18. She carried the mail from Grand View to New Holland in 1886 and was probably the first woman mail carrier in South Dakota. According to Uncle Webster, "Franci drove the mail stage 24 miles a day and back every day for \$400 a year and paid all the expense—so you can see that the times were difficult." Mother claimed her team of horses was the fastest in the county and she enjoyed racing and beat most of them. During the cold winter she had to wrap in blankets and use hot stones for warmth. She often had to

be helped from the wagon as she was too cold to get off by herself.

After their marriage, my parents lived near Grand View on a farm where Irl was born. About 1893 they moved to Missouri. According to Uncle Web, "During the bad crop years in South Dakota with three years of no crops of any kind, some had to haul water 14 miles for their stock; this was relieved by the country putting down artesian wells." Olive was born in Missouri and the family moved to Kansas where John Clifford was born. In 1898 they returned to South Dakota. Mother told of the hardships of that winter. They went into the pastures and dug out "cow-chips" from the snow to burn for fuel and cooking. They felt fortunate to have corn to grind for the only staple food they had that winter.

In Armour Lois, Gail and Frances Ruth were born. Until 1916 the family lived in a small house across the road from the railroad property. In the next block lived the Floete family, Hatfields, Daces and Beardsleys. Primeaus lived across the street and Susy Marsh and her sister a few blocks away. We had a large barn and granary on our property and kept a couple of horses, chickens and cows. Father rented property and farmed. About 1915 he operated Standard Oil Co., distributing station until 1918 when he became ill; he died in 1919.



Frances Batchelder Spaulding, 94

Mother and I moved to California in 1927 to make our home with Olive. She was one of the first two girls to graduate from the college of Medicine at the University of South

Dakota in 1919. Lois is a registered nurse and I am a laboratory technician and we are both employed by Olive; Gail is chief mechanic for a trucking firm, Clifford and Irl are retired; both were in the building business. Four years ago Mother had a stroke, since then has been an invalid. She is 94 years old and lives with Olive.

Mr. and Mrs. John Spaulding

John F. and Marianne Palmer Spaulding and children, Isaac, Richard and Dave, came to Douglas County in 1880. John died in 1909. Marianne died in 1918; Isaac died in 1919; Richard died in 1922; and Dave died in 1927.

Mr. and Mrs. Hans Storm

Hans Storm came to Douglas County with his brother John in 1892. About 1895 he settled on a farm 6 miles south, 1 east and one-half south of Armour. He married Erna Voss in 1899. They purchased the Flatery farm in 1905 and moved to the Moke farm until they could get possession.



Taken about 1900. Arthur Storm, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hans Storm.

Their son, Arthur, attended Voss school district 2, in 1905. Emma Erdmann was the teacher. Pupils were Freda Voss; Ella, Leonard and Clara Goddicksen; Beth and Marjorie Harris; Leo Hemeyer; Roy, Luther, Walter and Everett Fulk; Lena and August Plamp; August Riecke; Hattie, Ollie, Ralph and Jasper Gort; Herman, Fred, John, Rosie and Emma Swartz; Erica and Edward Heidinger; Herman Stahl; Alvena Schrank; Arthur Storm.

Mr. and Mrs. Hans Storm had 2 sons, Walter who died in 1931 and Arthur who lives northeast of Armour. Hans died in 1929. Mrs. Storm later married Percy Rudisill. She is 82 years old and lives at Alexandria. Walt-

er's son, Stanley, now lives on the same farm where his father and grandfather lived, northeast of Armour. Walter's widow later married F. H. Blume and they live in Armour.

Mr. and Mrs. John H. Storm

By John H. Storm

I am not a homesteader but I came with my parents and brother, Hans, to Armour, Douglas County, South Dakota, from Grand Park, Kankakee County, Ill. We pulled into the place of my brother-in-law, Jacob Engelland, at that time and all they had was a sod house. It was the last part of February 1892. We couldn't all sleep in the sod house so we made a bed in the granary. Had a feather bed under us and one on top, got along O. K. Next morning I got up and looked out the east door. I looked the prairie over. Hans said, "Johnny, how does it look to you?" I said, "If you feel like I do, we'll stay a couple of days and go back to Grand Park, Ill."

We had breakfast and dinner. Then John Elbinger and Henry Ruff came over. John Elbinger said, "If you want to work, you can stay with me for board till the first of the month of March. Then I'll give you \$16 a month for ten months," and Henry Ruff hired Hans for \$20 a month. He said, "You can come with me and start right away," as he had corn to pick from the big crop they had in 1891. So my brother and I went out to talk it over. We took the jobs.

In the first part of the year 1893 I had \$160. I took \$120 to the Douglas County Bank at 8 percent interest. In the same year, the bank closed its doors. I still have the \$120 note.

In 1893 and 1894 I worked for my brother-in-law, Jacob Engelland, but in 1894 it got so dry the prairie didn't green and there wasn't any crop. So Jacob said, "I've got to let you go." My friend David Wigt, who came in the spring from Yutan, Saunders County, Nebr., said he was going back and I could go along. We borrowed Henry Ruff's staves and covered them with bed sheets and made a covered wagon. The trip to Nebraska took us almost one week but we got there. I stayed but David Wigt came back.

The first of January, 1897, I came back to South Dakota again and worked for Jim Wilson, Valley Township, Section 35. Previously, in my teens, I worked in Indiana, Illinois and Nebraska, always on a farm.

On February 17, 1898, I married Emma Bertram, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Bertram. We started farming in Valley

Township. We had nine boys and one girl—Louis, Anton, John, Bill, Roosevelt, Oswald, Clemens, Emil and Leonard were the twins, and Hilda was the baby. My wife died Nov. 3, 1924, and left me alone with the children, but we kept on farming.

On February 29, 1929, I married Ida He-meyer. We lived on the farm in Valley Township until 1938 when we moved to my farm, 6½ miles west of Mitchell. In 1943, we moved to Mitchell and in 1955, Ida died.

I am still living in my home in Mitchell. I am past 86 years old.

I was a director of the Farmers Elevator at Armour for eighteen years and was a township supervisor for thirty-eight years in Valley Township.

Three of my boys, Louis, Anton, and Bill, died on my farm in Valley Township, Douglas County. The good Lord gave me my daily bread up to date. I farmed with horses all the time. I never drove a tractor in my life.

I attended school in Will County, Beecher, Ill., and was confirmed in St. John's Lutheran Church, Will County, Ill.

John Streeter

John Streeter came to Douglas County in 1883, where he settled on a claim. He moved to Grand View and later to Armour, where he opened a livery stable in 1888. He died in 1942.

Mr. and Mrs. Moses H. Surpless

Moses Surpless and family came to Douglas County and took a tree claim about 1886 or 1887. They located one mile north and two and one-half miles east of Armour.

Moses had served 21 months in the cavalry during the Civil War. His sabre has been given to the County Historical Society by his son, Wilbur. He was a G.A.R. member of O. P. Morton Post No. 51 and the only surviving member of that group to attend Armour's Memorial Day services before his death in 1934.

His wife, Alice, died in 1914, and a son, Sam, in 1917. At the time of the prairie fire, April 2, 1889, Moses fought the fire the entire night with the rest of the settlers. It was stopped at Mr. Douglas' farm. Living Surpless children are Wilbur, and Mae Hendricks.

Mr. and Mrs. John Thietje

John Thietje filed on his homestead, SW 21 100-62, August 12, 1882. The Flens-

burg Post Office, with John Thietje as postmaster, was established on his farm on May 28, 1886. John died July 16, 1889. He had been to town and was standing up in his wagon picking up groceries while his boys unhitched. The team of horses became frightened and threw him out of the wagon. He died soon afterwards.

Six children were born to John and Fredericka Thietje: John, who died in 1959; Fred, who died in 1956; Conrad, who died in 1961; Anna Heidinger, who died in 1959; and Rickie, who died in 1891. Living daughter: Mrs. Emil Schrank, Armour.

On August 8, 1889, R. Thietje was made postmaster. On September 27, 1889, the post office was moved one mile north to Henry Baars' farm and he became postmaster.

Mr. and Mrs. Owen D. Tibbetts

By Henry Tibbetts

My father, Henry Tibbetts, was born and raised in Preston, Minn., where he learned the drug business from his father. He also attended the Chicago School of Pharmacy. In July, 1886, he went to Armour where he opened the Farmer's Drug Store. In 1887, he married Miss Fannie Ferren at Decorah, Iowa. They had four children, James died in 1938; living children are Mrs. James Woodworth, Henry and Donald, all of San Diego, Calif.

Mr. Tibbetts was a member of Blue Lodge Masons at Armour, Modern Woodmen, A. O.-U. W. and I. O. O. F. He died in 1942, shortly after retiring from the Great Northern Railroad for which he had worked several years after leaving Armour. His wife died in 1948.

Mr. and Mrs. William Tipton

Mr. and Mrs. William Tipton came to Grand View in 1883 where he practiced law. He was appointed district attorney in 1884, 1885, and again in 1890. He moved to Armour where he was attorney and notary public and director of the Citizens State Bank. Mrs. Tipton died in 1890 and in 1894 he married Emily Rogers.

Mr. and Mrs. Gert Herman Topper

Gert Herman Topper and his brother, John, settled southwest of Armour in 1897. Mr. and Mrs. Gert Topper's children: Martin Herman, Gertie, Annette, and Hilda.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Vanden Hoek

Mr. and Mrs. William Vanden Hoek were married in 1899. She had come to Douglas County in 1886. He died in 1953. They had 13 children; only one is deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Wanzer

Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Wanzer moved to Armour in July of 1887. They lived in Harrison after their marriage, April 13, 1887, where he taught school. He taught in the Armour schools from 1888-1890. He then became an attorney and also had a land business office with Bayard Boylan, Sr. He served as state senator, was Grand Patron of O. E. S., a Master Mason, served as president of Armour school board for many years, and was secretary-treasurer of Pleasant Ridge Cemetery Corporation for over 20 years. He died in 1928.

Mrs. Wanzer organized the first state Red Cross seal sale, was active in the National Tuberculosis Association, was a member of the State Board of Health, organized and was first president of South Dakota Public Health Association, organized Pleasant Ridge Ladies Cemetery Association and served as president many years, was library board president from 1914-1931 and instrumental in securing Andrew Carnegie funds, and was Worthy Grand Matron of O. E. S. She died in 1931.

Dr. and Mrs. J. W. Ward

Dr. J. W. and Clara Ward settled at Grand View in 1885 where he was a physician. They moved to Armour when the town was founded in 1886. Their only child, a son, Vance, was accidentally shot by a schoolmate in 1899. It has been said that Dr. Ward had one of the largest practices ever established throughout entire Douglas County. Mrs. Ward often went with him on sick calls.

Both were interested in horses and it was a common sight to see her working out her horse on the race track. He died in 1937, and she in 1944.

Mr. and Mrs. Delmar Whittemore

Delmar Whittemore came to Douglas County with his parents in 1884 from Crawford, Pa. He homesteaded northeast of Armour. He married Laura Hollmann in 1907. They lived six miles northeast of Armour until 1920, when they sold their farm to the Ed Scholtens and moved to Armour. He died in 1933. One son, Orville, died in 1947. Daughters are Alvina Jones, Armour, and Hattie Weber, Delmont.

Mr. and Mrs. John Wittrock

John Wittrock came here from Halbor, Iowa, in 1898. He farmed in Iowa and later at Armour. His half-sister, Mrs. Woder, and two children lived with him until 1900 when he married Susan Ferguson. She came to South Dakota in June of 1884 at the age of fourteen with her parents and four brothers. They also farmed.

Mr. Wittrock died in 1930 and Mrs. Wittrock in 1952. Their children are Mrs. Nellie Bell, and Henry both of Armour; Mrs. Annie Timm, Sioux Falls; and Mrs. Emma Arnitt, Plano.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Wohlford

Thomas J. Wohlford came to Douglas County in 1883 and located on a government claim. In 1884, his family joined him. He cultivated the farm until 1894 and did blacksmithing at Huston. He served as clerk of courts and justice of the peace. Children were Ray, Charles, James, Mary and Roy.

Mr. and Mrs. Nels Youngstrom

Mr. and Mrs. Nels Youngstrom settled in Grand View Township in 1885 where they farmed until 1920. They lived in Corsica for one year and then moved to Armour. He died in 1924 and she in 1934. Deceased children are Peter, Ida, Charles, and Emma Hawkes. Their one living daughter is Elin Doty of Corsica.

ORGANIZATIONS

Douglas County Historical Society

By Mrs. Annetta Polkinghorn

The Douglas County Historical Society was organized Sept. 2, 1955. The group was called together by Mrs. Elizabeth Burnett at the Armour Public Library. Officers elected were: President, Charles Crutchett; vice-president, Mrs. Olive Palmer; secretary, Richard DeHeer; treasurer, Mrs. Mabel Myers.

Through the untiring efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Crutchett and the cooperation of the county commissioners, the society has established a "Douglas County History Museum" in the brick building in the court yard, which now houses many valuable articles establishing history and records of Douglas County. Articles placed in the museum may be placed as gifts or loans.

As the result of investigation and study by the Society of the history of Grand View, the county commissioners, in 1961, are placing a historical marker at the site in Grand View of the first county seat of Douglas County.

Officers for 1961 are Mrs. Mabel Myers, president; Victor Hawley, vice-president; Mrs. Annetta Polkinghorn, secretary-treasurer; Charles Crutchett, curator; Earl Myers, historian; Maynard Goehring, Fred Bruekelman, Norbert Goehring, Earl Myers, and Marguerite Felton, board of directors.

Pleiades Rebekah Lodge No. 86

Pleiades Rebekah Lodge No. 86 was instituted March 17, 1904, by a group of thirteen people. Mrs. Floy A. Bents Gallagher is the only living charter member. Meetings are held twice a month. There is a membership of 52.

Order of Eastern Star No. 64

By Mrs. C. P. Crutchett

On April 5, 1901, nineteen petitioners met at the Masonic Hall at Armour, and Armour Star Chapter No. 64 was instituted by Grand Matron Margaret V. Hitchcock of Yankton. She was assisted by Philip Lawrence of Huron and B. H. Wood of Tyndall, and Sisters Robinson, Eastman, Barker, and Diel of Scotland.

Charter members were Mesdames Alice Knapp, Emily Tipton, Fannie Culver, Abbie

Morgan, Ella Shaw, Emma Blanchard, Emma James, Dora Johnson, Lula Wilson, Emma Roberts, Emma Chesley, Frances Kaufman, Hattie Erdman, Emma Newell, Ella Boylan, Ella Baird, Lulu Wanzer, Miss Grace Baird, and Mr. Edwin P. Wanzer.

Officers elected were Alice D. Knapp, worthy matron; E. P. Wanzer, worthy patron; Emma Blanchard, associate matron; Lulu Wanzer, secretary; Ella Boylan, treasurer; Dora B. Johnson, conductress; and Fannie E. Culver, associate conductress.

Sister Wanzer, assisted by her co-workers, sold 200 subscriptions to the Argus Leader. The reward was a piano, and in 1961 the Eastern Star is still using the same piano.

Two charter members are living, Mrs. Hattie Erdman and Mrs. Dora Johnson.

Armour Star has been honored by having three Worthy Grand Matrons, Sisters Lulu Wanzer, Florence Hoon, and Elizabeth Burnett, and two Worthy Grand Patrons, Brothers Edwin P. Wanzer and Edgar J. Polkinghorn. We have had many appointed Grand Officers throughout the 60 years of existence.

In 1951, the 50th anniversary was observed with a program, "Build Well for the Future." A television narrative was presented with Adda Edwards reading and depicting the history of the Chapter.

A new Temple was erected in 1952. In May, a banquet was held in the Odd Fellows Hall, the day the cornerstone was laid. The first meeting was held there on October 24, 1952. The Chapter enjoys their new home and have had many interesting meetings. Many special gifts, such as a signet, chairs, floor cloth, sign, etc., have been given to the Chapter.

Chapter AO, P. E. O.

By Mrs. Geneva Smith

Chapter AO, P. E. O., was organized May 11, 1932. Charter members were Mesdames Lillian Wright, Eva H. Gilkerson, Adda B. Edwards, Edith Lynn, Wilma Martin, Clara Raben, Harrietta Doscher, Jennie Sanders, Elizabeth Burnett, Louisa Crutchett, Joanna Boyd, Edna Fiscus, Clara Boylan, and Miss Marjorie Wright.

There is an educational loan fund to assist young women to complete their higher

education. Several girls in Armour have received loans through the Chapter from this fund.

Chapter AO sponsored the Girl Scouts and Brownies for many years. In April, 1957, a rummage sale for the Douglas County Hospital was held. Nine hundred five dollars were cleared which was used to furnish a room and to buy other equipment for the hospital. In 1958, the P. E. O. Memorial Book Shelf was started at the Armour Public Library. Members and friends have donated 110 volumes to this shelf.

Our Home Extension Club

On July 10, 1951, a branch from the Tried and True Extension Club, together with other interested ladies, met and organized the Our Home Club. Club work was begun in September with 10 charter members. Seven who are still members include Mrs. Paul Glantz, Mrs. Douglas Munson, Mrs. Otto Hollmann, Mrs. Allen Kolecka, Mrs. Chas. Fryda, Mrs. Paul Hollmann, and Mrs. Henry Hollmann. Mrs. Otto Hollmann was honored as a 25-year extension club member in 1960.

Achievements include many blue ribbon secretary books, gifts and food donations at every Christmas to the Abbott House, belonging to \$1 a month club for Crippled Children's Hospital and School, Sioux Falls, donations to worthy charities, sponsoring the Happy Toilers 4-H Club, and contributing toward the 4-H loudspeaker system.

A round table holiday cookie exchange among members has been held for several years and secret sisters exchange gifts. Field trips have been taken for several years and present plans are for a day at the State Centennial at Yankton, with members wearing old-fashioned dresses and bonnets. The Club will also take part in Douglas County and Armour Jubilee activities.

Choteau Creek Extension Club

By Mrs. Fred DeHaai

The Choteau Creek Extension Club was organized in the spring of 1925 at the home of Mrs. Ira Meyer. The first demonstration was given by Mrs. Ross Herrig and Mrs. Ed Meyer on "How To Use the Pressure Cooker." A complete meal was prepared in the cooker. An old rooster with spurs was cooked, as well as corn pudding and vegetables. This was an all-day meeting and the food was served at noon. The group was organized in the afternoon. Mrs. Ira Meyer was elected

president; Mrs. John Groen, vice-president; and Mrs. Fred DeHaai, secretary. The name, "Choteau Creek," was chosen as most of the group lived along the creek. Since then, many members have moved but have kept their membership.

All members of the family have been welcome at meetings. At Christmas, a party for all the family has been held. For many years members have had secret pals, known as "peanut sisters;" baby showers and wedding showers are also given.

Members of the Club have served on the County Council. Mrs. John Engelland and Mrs. Fred DeHaai were delegates to Farm and Home Week at Brookings in 1947. Mrs. Guy Van Woerkom and Mrs. Fred DeHaai attended the Farm Women's Camp at Nemo in 1951.

At different times, 4-H clubs have been sponsored and demonstration teams sent to the State Fair. Each year a community club picnic is held. At present, all except five have been members for 25 years; however, Mrs. Fred DeHaai is the only charter member. Mrs. Clarence Menning is 1961 president; Mrs. Frederick H. Blume, vice-president; and Mrs. Henry Ligtenberg, secretary-treasurer.

Modern Day Extension Club

Modern Day Extension Club was organized at Mrs. Eddie King's home, Feb. 12, 1958. There were 14 charter members; many are still members as this club is the youngest in the county. Monthly meetings are held. The State Hospital at Yankton and the Training School at Plankinton have been visited. Several articles have been donated to these organizations.

Officers for 1961 are: President, Mrs. LeRoy Werkmeister; vice-president, Mrs. Ted Cox; secretary, Mrs. Leo Hertz; treasurer, Mrs. Herman Struck.

Happy Valley Extension Club

By Mrs. Art Harrington

The Happy Valley Extension Club was organized on June 15, 1951, at the home of Mrs. Otto Hoffman, with Wayne Hamilton and Mrs. Ross Herrig present to help with organization. Charter members were Mrs. Otto Hoffman, Mrs. Dorothy Grosz Hawley, Mrs. Henry Ruff, Mrs. Neil Klein, Mrs. G. E. Blume, Mrs. Deitrich Blume, Mrs. John Lau, Mrs. Wm. H. Blume, and Mrs. Wm. Mengenhauzen.

Members attend all council meetings and

demonstrations; help in 4-H activities; send gifts to various institutions each year at Christmas; and send gifts and cards to brides, new arrivals, and ill members. There are no dues. The treasury is replenished by fines, traveling basket, and donations. Parties or picnics are held for the families or a tour is taken. A potluck dinner is held at Christmas. The membership of the Club is twenty. Mrs. Art Harrington is the president in 1961.

49'ers Extension Club

The first meeting of the Club was held at the home of Mrs. Wayne Hamilton, November 8, 1949. Mrs. Althea Mebius was elected president. At the second meeting, the club name, 49'ers, was chosen as the year was 1949.

Four charter members of the Club, Jean Zeitner, Dorothy Hamilton, Doris Winter, and Harriet Scholten, are still members.

Projects which the Club has undertaken include donations to Girls' State Fund, Pennies for Friendship, donated money to 4-H public address system, sent cheer boxes, made scuff slippers for Douglas County Hospital, and sent gifts to patients at Yankton State Hospital.

Officers for 1961 are Mrs. Emil Rothenberger, president; Mrs. Louis Wudel, vice-president; Mrs. W. C. Zeitner, secretary-treasurer.

Homemakers Club

By Mrs. Ed Fuoss

The Homemakers Club was organized in February of 1926. Mrs. Wm. Marsh held the meeting at her home and a neighborhood extension club was formed.

Charter members were Mrs. E. Tranter, Mrs. C. E. Edwards, Mrs. W. Surpless, Mrs. Tony Hardyk, Mrs. W. Boyes, Ruth Hendricks, Mrs. Will Dierks, Mary Palmer, Mrs. Albert Holmberg, Mary Fuoss, and Mrs. Will Marsh. Others joined during later years. Mrs. C. E. Edwards and Mrs. Albert Holmberg have been members for 35 years and Mrs. Lena Fineran, 34 years.

Educational activities include extension demonstrations. The Club also donated waste baskets to Douglas County Hospital; made tray favors for 10 holidays; purchased gowns and towels each year; sent the hospital food at Christmas; collected clothing for flood relief victims; gave gifts for weddings, anni-

versaries, to babies, and memorials at time of death.

A traditional Christmas party is held each year for children, and a picnic each summer. A luncheon was held in 1961 in observance of the Club's 35th anniversary.

Officers for 1961 are: President, Mrs. Ed Fuoss; vice-president, Mrs. Ray Florey; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Wm. Fuoss.

Circle 14 Extension Club

Nov. 22, 1955, County Agent Norman Telkamp, Mrs. Telkamp, and Mrs. Gerrit Scholten met with ten ladies at the home of Mrs. Robert Graumann and organized an extension club which was named Circle 14 as it was the fourteenth extension club to be organized in the county. Charter members who are still members are Mesdames Werner Drefs, John Drefs, Albert Hartman, Henry Puepke, Robert Graumann, Ivan Bialas, Harold Semmler, Joe Flemmer, and Herbert Ziebart. Mrs. Werner Drefs was the first president. The naming of the club led to the rule of limiting active membership to 14. Now there are 13 active members.

Contributions have been made to the Crippled Children's Home, Armour Community Hospital, State Hospital, 4-H public address system, Abbott House, to Joe Flemmers when fire destroyed their home, and clothes and gifts were donated to the State Hospital. The Club also sponsors a 4-H club in their community. Members draw names for secret pals to be remembered during the year. A field trip is taken yearly in the spring, and a family picnic is held in July.

Present officers are Mrs. Ivan Bialas, president; Mrs. Herman Pietz, vice-president; Mrs. Robert Graumann, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Werner Drefs, reporter.

Jolly Club

By Mrs. Tony Greenaway

The Jolly Club was organized Aug. 28, 1930, at the home of Emma Hawkes. Charter members were Florence Chaney, Maggie Crago, Cecelia Harrington, Kate Harrington, Lucy Harrington, Emma Hawkes, Kate Jacobs, Elnora Marten, Leola Schroeder, Delphine Smits, Lily Walsh, and Mary Walsh. Officers elected were Emma Hawkes, chairman; Maggie Crago and Kate Jacobs, vice chairmen; and Mary Walsh, secretary-treasurer.

Feb. 11, 1932, was a red letter day for Emma Hawkes as she was one of two South

Dakota women honored as Master Farm Homemaker at Farm and Home Week in Brookings. During 1932-33-34-35, quilts were made for each member. The Club also gained several new members, Anna Beeson, May Hansen, Elizabeth Harrington, Letitia Harrington, Agnes Hawley, Laurena Jacobs, Alma Schroeder, Hannah Schroeder, Alice Skillings, Mamie Vander Pol, and Marie Varelik.

In 1942 extension work was dropped. During 1946 members did Red Cross work. In January, 1947, Will and Kate Jacobs observed their 50th wedding anniversary, and the Jolly Club served at their open house. In 1947 and 1948, the Club sent clothing to the Children's Home in Sioux Falls and donated various articles to the Bill Smits family, who lost everything in a fire. In June, 1949, Will and Emma Hawkes planned a trip to California and the club presented them with a brand new suitcase (there was no excuse for not going now).

In 1953, Emma Hawkes received a gift for her 23 years of service to the Club, and Florence Beck received a gift for her seven years as secretary-treasurer. June 14, 1955, Will and Emma Hawkes celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. On August 30, 1955, Jolly Club celebrated its 25th anniversary. In 1959, Emma Hawkes, who had been the chairman of Jolly Club for 25 years, died at the Armour hospital.

During the years, many showers have been held for brides, new babies, and farewell parties for members who moved away. Members who were ill were also remembered. Since 1957, it was decided to again have secret pals and to pay \$1 dues, instead of 10c for lunch.

Charter members in the Club in 1961 are Florence Beck, Maggie Crago, and Elnora Marten. Officers elected Sept. 13, 1960, are Wanda Schrank, chairman; Evelyn Greeneway, vice chairman; Cecelia Patocka, secretary-treasurer.

Monday Study Club

By Mrs. C. P. Crutchett

The Monday Study Club was organized Sept. 2, 1921, at the home of Mrs. Burtis. Mrs. H. J. Crutchett was elected temporary president and Mrs. Crawford, secretary.

Original members were Mesdames Beardsley, B. T. Boylan, Sr., B. T. Boylan, Jr., I. S. Burnett, J. Burnell, C. Bootjer, C. Crawford, H. J. Crutchett, G. L. Chesley, E.

E. Dubes, C. H. Fiscus, Z. Gurley, F. H. Hammitt, Wm. Moore, W. H. Palmer, Fred Ricketts, I. O. Smith, E. P. Wanzer, Doris Wenzlaff, Ruben Walin, Wilson and T. Willis.

Officers elected were president, Mrs. Burtis; vice-president, Mrs. Chesley; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. I. O. Smith.

The club federated with the state in 1922 and in 1933 federated with the General Federation. Two members of the Club have served as district president: Mrs. B. L. Wright served in 1936 and 1937, and Mrs. C. P. Crutchett in 1954 and 1955. An active membership of 20-25 members has been maintained throughout the years.

The Club has participated in many civic projects, including the city park, the lake, youth activities, library promotions, hospital guild when Armour had a city hospital. At present, they are active in several projects, not only for the city but also in the district.

Officers for 1961-62 are as follows: president, Mrs. Florence Black; vice-president, Mrs. Don Clements; secretary, Mrs. Fred DeHaai; treasurer, Mrs. Art Sievert; reporter, Mrs. C. P. Crutchett.

Grand View Reformed Ladies Aid

By Mrs. Fred DeHaai

The Ladies Aid of the Grand View Reformed Church was organized about 1890. One of the first presidents was Mrs. Ellen (DeGeest) Meyer, mother of John L. and Walter Meyer of Armour. The aim of the Society was to promote God's kingdom by studying the Bible and to aid missions. All women and Christian friends of the church had the privilege to become members. Meetings were held in homes and that meant a thorough housecleaning the day before. Nearly every home had an organ and gospel hymns were sung, followed by Bible study.

On Jan. 30, 1908, Mrs. Cornelius Meyer, Mrs. Klaus Menning, Mrs. Henry Bobeldyke, and Mrs. Matt Duen met at the Reverend Duen home for the purpose of reorganizing the Ladies Missionary and Aid Society. Sewing was one of the projects and special meetings were held and articles priced and sold. All articles left were sold at public auction to the highest bidder. Offerings were taken at each meeting, and the money was used to maintain the church and parsonage and for foreign and domestic mission work. The Ladies Aid today carries on its work much the same as when it started about 70 years ago.



SUNSHINE EXTENSION CLUB

Standing (left to right): Mrs. Norm Nelson, Mrs. Nellie Myers, Mrs. Dave Gilkerson, Mrs. Art Marten, Mrs. Anton Bringelson, Mrs. Raleigh Clark, Mrs. Niel Jacobson, Mrs. Fred Long, Mrs. Earl Myers, Mrs. Chas. H. Bussell, Mrs. Chas. Altenburg, Mrs. Jesse Morrison. **Sitting:** Mrs. Presley Swallow, Mrs. William Jacobs, Mrs. Frank Groesbeck, Mrs. Ed Peters, Mrs. Phil Ahrens. **Sunshine Sunbeams 4-H Club:** Erna Altenburg, Agnes Peters, Mildred Peters, Harriett Long, Nola Altenburg; **Seated:** Lavone Long, Doris Swallow, Ruth Clark, Edna Nelson. The club observed its 25th anniversary in 1950.

Sunshine Extension Club

By Mrs. Chris Anderson

One summer evening, 37 years ago, Mrs. D. L. Gilkerson met friends and they talked about forming an extension club. A few weeks later, in October, 1924, these same ladies met at the home of Mrs. Raleigh Clark and a club was formed. The name, "Sunshine Club," was suggested by Mrs. Nellie Myers because "A club should justify its existence by the sunshine it brings into the lives of its members and friends." At the first meeting, Mrs. D. L. Gilkerson was elected chairman; Mrs. Raleigh Clark, vice chairman; and Mrs. Art Marten, secretary and treasurer. Mrs. Marten also served as music leader during the many years she lived here.

Today there are three active charter members: Mrs. Chas. Bussell, Mrs. Anton Bringelson, and Mrs. Raleigh Clark. Mrs. Nellie Myers is also a charter member, but due to ill health is unable to attend many meetings. Until the last few years, she was

on the cheer committee. Mrs. Art Marten is a charter member and still a member although she lives in California. Mrs. D. L. Gilkerson is also a charter member and lives in Brookings.

Present officers are Mrs. Chas. Bussell, chairman; Mrs. Phil Ahrens, vice chairman; Mrs. Whittier Hansen, secretary; and Mrs. Chris Anderson, treasurer. At present, there are 19 members.

During the years, three of the present members have held the office of county chairman: Mrs. Anton Bringelson, Mrs. Wayne Clark, and Mrs. Les Putnam, present county chairman.

The late Mrs. Will Hawkes was a member of the Club and was County Extension Club Chairman for 15 years and was chosen South Dakota Master Farm Homemaker in 1932; she was also a delegate to the Association of Country Women of the World, at Washington, D.C., in 1936. She left the Club in 1930 to organize a neighborhood club, the

Jolly Club. Mrs. Earl Myers served as county secretary for several years.

Projects are numerous and demonstrations are given by two members who attend the workshop. Donations are made to charitable drives; the Club helps sponsor exchange students; new babies are given gifts; sympathy is expressed in case of death in a member's family; and boys in service are remembered at Christmas. Three parties and a picnic are held every year for the whole family. The Club vacations from June to September. When the Club was first organized, members attended Achievement Days and displayed articles they had made, furnished entertainment at public programs, and even won blue ribbons entitling them to attend the State Fair.

Sunshine Extension Club tries to be of some help to the two 4-H Clubs, the Double D with Mrs. Les Putnam as leader, and Cloverleaf, Mrs. Carl Bringelson, leader. Mrs. Putnam should be called a charter member for as a girl she was a member of the Sunshine Sunbeams 4-H Club, organized by Mrs. Art Marten in 1928. She was a member until the time she joined the extension club and has been leader of the Double D Club for eight years. Each year the Double D Club entertains Sunshine Extension Club members at a tea. The Club also carries on secret sister exchanges during the year.

Cloverleaf 4-H Club

The Cloverleaf 4-H Club was organized Feb. 9, 1948, with Kenneth Black as leader. Charter members were Donald Olivier, Raymond O'Brien, Donald Schlegel, Robert Eernisse, Robert Johanneson, Leonard DeVries, Bob Cole, and Erwin DeVries. In 1950, Carl Bringelson became leader and Leslie Putnam, assistant. In 1952, Carl continued as leader and Mrs. Carl Bringelson became assistant.

Members carry regular 4-H projects. For six years, the Club carried the work of the clean grain program and was a winner each year. They received plaques, free trips, cash and pins. They erected welcome signs to the county on the main highways, assisted in survey of graves, and sponsored testing of water wells. Several members received awards for health habit improvement. Donations are also made to charities. A member, Darrell Bringelson, was a state and national winner in a tractor maintenance project.

Women's Fellowship of Community Congregational Women

By Mrs. C. P. Crutchett, Mrs. Chas.

Buswell and Mrs. Dwight Messing

We do not have records of the early history of the Ladies Aid, but the church was moved to Armour, Nov. 29, 1886, and there was a Ladies Aid at that time. A Tin-Pan Social was held soon after the church was moved. In 1888, the Ladies Aid gave a Tailor Social in the church. The men were presented with an apron to be hemmed and a prize was given for the best work. Other means of raising money in the early days were chicken pie socials in the winter, and lawn parties or ice cream socials with homemade ice cream and cake in the summer.

In 1908, while Reverend Dawson was minister, the old church became too small so it was moved off the church grounds and a new brick edifice was erected. At this time, the Ladies Aid started having their annual dinners and bazaars on the first Saturday in December. At first, the basement had just cement floors and coal stoves, but they made money. The Aid also served teas four times a year, at supper time. In the early days, meetings were held twice a month in the homes; they served hot dishes, salads, desserts, and a drink for ten cents.

The Congregational Church gained in membership when the Baptist, Methodist, and Christian Churches merged with the Congregational. The merging of the churches also caused the Aid organizations of these churches to merge. This was about 1921.

From 1926 to 1936, the church basement had a new floor installed and the walls were plastered. In 1947, the Aid bought electric and gas stoves and remodeled the cupboards. About this time, a Ways and Means Committee planned ways for making money; harvest festivals and rummage sales were held and lunches were served at farm sales. Later, the Aid was divided into five divisions, each one to make a certain amount of money during the year. Meetings were held in the church basement and some of the families would come there for supper, which was 25 cents.

Mother-Daughter banquets, served by the men, and Father-Son banquets, served by the women, were held 1938-1941. During World War II, banquets were discontinued and never resumed. In 1947, an electric water heater was purchased and the Plus Gift instituted. In 1948, the annual dinner was

changed to one meal served in the evening. Adults were charged \$1.00 and children, 50 cents.

The Ladies Aid served at all special functions of the Church, redecorated Fellowship Hall and the kitchen, purchased chairs for the church, assisted in buying choir robes, and gave generously to the church budget.

March 29, 1952, our church burned. Nearly all the kitchen equipment was saved. They met in the basement of the G. C. Winter home until the new church was built. They had food sales and white elephant sales to raise money. Mrs. Lawrence Stelzer was the first president of the Aid in the new church. February 7, 1954, when the church was dedicated, tea was served by the Women's Fellowship to over 700 persons.

For several years, May Day teas have been held and women from other churches invited. A program is given, followed by tea. In 1957, the Aid was divided into five circles which meet once a month. General Aid meets the second Thursday each month in Fellowship Hall.

In June, 1958, Karen Elizabeth Chapple, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. John Chapple, was honored as the first parsonage baby in 60 years.

Now in 1961, we are celebrating our 75th anniversary on July 9th.

Women's Fellowship has always given to the church budget, to Women's Gift, Missions, Friendly Service, sent cheer boxes at Christmas to shut-ins, and served meals and lunches at funerals.

Prairie Home Study Club

On July 3, 1912, a group of women met at the home of Mrs. E. E. Edwards for the purpose of organizing a women's club. On July 25, a constitution with by-laws naming the group, "The Prairie Home Study Club," with literary, philanthropic and social objectives, was approved. Mrs. Jennie Sanders was elected the first president, Mrs. E. Edwards, vice-president; Mrs. H. Loeffler, secretary; and Mrs. I. Clausen, treasurer.

Members, according to the roll of the record book of 1912, were Mesdames J. E. Boot, I. S. Burnett, H. J. Crutchett, E. E. Edwards, H. H. Loeffler, T. J. Markey, H. B. Mead, L. J. Morris, H. A. Perry, J. C. Perkinson, Chas. Powers, T. W. Rae, F. Ricketts, J. Sanders, H. Sleister, D. S. Sullivan, Sunderlin, and E. P. Wanzer. A few meetings were held in the Congregational church. The

hostess was in charge of building the fire but the Club paid for the coal.

Mrs. Jennie Sanders, the first president, also served several other terms as president, as district president in 1915, and represented South Dakota at the General Federation Meeting in Texas in 1928 when the state president was ill.

The Club joined the state federation in 1912, and the General Federation in 1913. In March, 1913, a committee from the Club met with the City Council to discuss the possibility of building a library. One year later, the president, Mrs. Sanders, announced that Andrew Carnegie had donated \$7500 for the erection of a library. The Club voted to purchase 12 chairs and later contributed pictures, a statue, and over 100 books.

Since December, 1912, when members bought dolls and dressed them for the Orphans Home at Sioux Falls, the Club has knitted for the Red Cross, conducted charitable drives, packed cheer boxes, sent gifts to hospitals, and has promoted the city park project, school safety, ice skating rink, and activities for the youngsters.

In 1948, a committee from the Club, Mrs. Margaret Carlon and Mrs. Ed Lester, met with Drs. Ronald and Mary Price, two men of the Hospital Committee of the State of South Dakota, Reverend Hertz, and Charles Crutchett to discuss the possibility of a hospital in Armour. Prairie Home members joined Monday Club members and other organizations and formed an auxiliary for the hospital. Later, Prairie Home paid a laundry bill, purchased towels, and did sewing.

Officers serving in 1961 are Mrs. Clarence Markus, president; Mrs. Lloyd Tranter, vice-president; Mrs. Leo Hertz, secretary; Mrs. Mark Wilson, treasurer; Mrs. Douglas Munson, corresponding secretary.

Pleasant Ridge Cemetery and Ladies Cemetery Association

Articles of Incorporation for the Pleasant Ridge Cemetery Association of Armour were filed in Pierre on July 6, 1889, providing for perpetual existence with authorized capital stock of \$1,000, divided into 1,000 shares of \$10 each. The Articles of Incorporation were signed by Charles E. Huston, George W. Lumley, Philander B. Burton, David M. Henderson, and John S. Bean.

In May, 1890, a ten-acre tract was plat-

ted by C. E. Huston, surveyor, assisted by D. M. Henderson and John S. Bean, and the lot corners were marked by red cedar stakes driven level with the ground. This tract was named "Pleasant Ridge Cemetery" by John S. Bean and he was the first president of the corporation.

An additional three acres was platted in July, 1908, lying adjacent to the original ten acres, along the west and south. In 1960, another tract was platted directly west of the above thirteen acres, which will probably be known as the Charles P. Crutchett addition since he has personally paid for the re-fill and had it platted.

The James Berry home and acreage surrounding was purchased in September, 1926, from Mrs. James Berry for \$4,000 and is still owned by the Pleasant Ridge Cemetery Corporation and it is used as a home for the cemetery sexton.

This corporation carried on for some time with money from donations and donated labor, buying mowers, putting down a tubular well, and fencing the grounds. However, the need for an annual income was realized and the Ladies Cemetery Association was formed with its purpose to care for, beautify and otherwise improve the cemetery.

Articles of Incorporation for the Ladies Cemetery Association were issued May 2, 1918, and the directors were Lulu S. Wanzer, Frances A. Carmody, Lillian A. Scholes, Mary Carlon, Abbie J. Morgan, Nellie R. Henderson, and Minnie Raben, all of Armour. Lulu Wanzer was the first president of the corporation.

The membership was fixed at \$1.00 and soon there was a large membership, not only of ladies in Armour but all the surrounding territory. The main source of income was from an annual dinner and supper served on Memorial Day in the largest empty building available in Armour. Sometimes they were held on the first floor of the Slettebak building, now owned and occupied by the Wudel Chevrolet Co.; sometimes in the Johnson House, a three-story hotel which stood across the street; and other years, in the building which burned about two years ago, on the corner south of the Fullerton Lumber Co., which was originally built for a livery barn.

Money from the dinners was used to make many improvements such as building a tool house, a wrought iron fence along the south

with a large south gate, and also an entrance gate to the north and cement sidewalk along the entire south side of the cemetery property. In the earlier days, lot owners used to take care of their own lots and it was a common sight to see four or five ladies, with hoe, rake and spade, garden gloves and sun bonnet, walking to the cemetery to work on their lots.

The Ladies Cemetery Association is still active. After the dinners on Memorial Day were discontinued, the cemetery has been successfully financed by a house-to-house canvass in Armour and surrounding territory, each May. The Association also mails out about 200 cards each year to relatives of former residents who have people buried here.

The Armour Cemetery has a variety of trees, different kinds of evergreens, horse chestnut, catalpa, and others and many kinds of shrubbery, most of which were planted and cared for by Jim Berry, now deceased. The Ladies Association now plants trees every few years to replace dead trees.

Dr. J. W. Ward, before his death, purchased a federal bond in 1912 for the Ladies Cemetery Association for the permanent care of the Ward Lot after he and Mrs. Ward died. The income from it is used for the current expenses of the cemetery. Many others have donated to this permanent care fund since that time.

V. F. W. Ladies Auxiliary

The Ladies Auxiliary to the V. F. W. Douglas Post No. 6897 was installed May 25, 1950, with 37 charter members being initiated into the organization. Officers of the Ernest Bowyer Post of Yankton initiated the candidates and installed the officers.

The objects of this organization are fraternal, patriotic, historical, and educational; to assist the Posts and members thereof of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and its own members whenever possible; to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States of America and fidelity to its Constitution and laws; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom and equal rights and justice to all men and women; and to preserve and defend the United States of America.

Since the organization of the V. F. W. Auxiliary, many projects have been carried out. Every year the Post and Auxiliary sell

"Buddy Poppies" that are made by disabled veterans. The veterans receive payment for these poppies which enables them to be a little more independent. The money that is kept by the local organization is used in many ways; a large part of it is contributed toward the upkeep of the V. F. W. Children's Home at Eaton Rapids, Mich. South Dakota Auxiliaries and Posts have built and furnished a home where the children of disabled or deceased veterans may go to make their home. The mother can take her family there to live so that the family doesn't have to be separated.

Community services include presentation of flags to the Girl and Boy Scout troops; this spring the Auxiliary presented a 50-star flag to the Armour Grade School; contributed to the V. F. W. Post fund for furnishing a room in the Douglas County Memorial Hospital; conducted an essay contest in the public schools of the county; assist and help to promote Memorial Day services; sponsored Easter Egg Hunts for the small children of the community; and recently assisted and contributed toward the building fund for the new Post home. The Auxiliary completely furnished the kitchen in the new home.

Degree of Honor Lodge No. 109

By Mrs. Lloyd Youngstrom

The Ancient Order of United Workman Lodge was organized in Armour in January, 1892. It was affiliated with the Degree of Honor Lodge, which was organized March 5, 1900, with 34 members. Charter members were E. T. Hill, C. W. Townsend, Minnie Booher, Grace Baird, Hattie Newill, Barbara Vogie, Gertie Shaw, Ella Shaw, Hattie Erdman, Mrs. W. D. Tapp, Francis Kauffman, H. J. Vogie, Ella Baird, Elva Hill, Harry Henderson, Annie Newill, Wm. Sigloh, Nellie Henderson, Edward Newill, Chas. Spaun, Walter Baird, LeRoy Booher, C. W. Kauffman, Valentine Weigh, Annie Riley, Eugene Wakefield, J. L. Newill, Mrs. Wakefield, Emila Kritzinger, Charlotte Fancher, Willie Riley, Nina Newill, Alfred Newill, and Adolph Kritzinger.

It was moved and seconded the name of this lodge be called Armour Lodge No. 109, Degree of Honor. Mrs. Elva Hill was elected the first president and Mrs. LeRoy Booher, secretary. Three physicians were appointed for the Lodge, Dr. Ward, Dr. LaShier, and Dr. Brown.

The Junior Lodge was organized in the

early twenties, with Mrs. Lewis Blair, the first Junior Director.

The Lodge is a beneficial organization with various policies available. It has a membership of 65, including non-resident members in 10 states. Regular meetings are held. Officers are as follows: Junior director, Faith Montagne; president, Nina Youngstrom; financial secretary, Frances Loper; treasurer, Phyllis Beeson. Mrs. Elmer Bower of Washington State is the oldest member, and Jimmy Beeson, Armour, the youngest member.

Mayflower Club

From History by Mrs. Hannah Clark

The Mayflower Club was organized April 1, 1901, when 10 women met at the home of Mrs. John Hewitt. It was organized as a Ladies Aid Society to plan for the future of the community. Regular meetings were held and first officers were Mrs. John Hewitt, Mrs. R. T. Parker, Mrs. L. N. Menor, Mrs. M. E. Mills, Mrs. J. R. Fitz, and Mrs. M. M. Moore. In 1904, the society made plans to raise money to start a Presbyterian Church in the community.

The church was built and called the Mayflower Chapel, Sept. 14, 1904. The society's name was changed to Mayflower Community Club at that time. On April 29, 1951, the Club observed their 50th anniversary with a program at the Community Room of the Douglas County Courthouse.

The Mayflower Club disbanded in October of 1958. All records were turned over to the Douglas County Historical Society and the balance of the money was sent to the Children's Home Society in Sioux Falls.

McGrath-Ferguson American Legion Post No. 52

The first meeting of the McGrath Post No. 52 was held on Sept. 23, 1919, at the Courthouse. Earl Henderson acted as the temporary chairman and D. Messing as the temporary adjutant. At the first election, Henderson was then elected as the post commander; Warren Hotham, vice commander; Frank Mead, post adjutant; D. Messing, finance officer; Logan, historian, and Phil Felton, post chaplain.

The McGrath Post included many Legion members from Corsica, Harrison, Valley Union (Valley Township), and surrounding areas. Meetings were also held in these places in turn with Armour, until a Legion

Post was set up in Corsica after the Second World War.

After World War II, the American Legion of Armour changed its name to McGrath-Ferguson Post in honor of the first one who gave his life for his country in the Second World War.

During the course of every year, the local Legion Post sponsors a boy, a junior in high school, to Boys' State; sponsors the Junior Legion baseball team; Student Government Days; and other youth and community programs.

American Legion Auxiliary

By Dora Cunningham and Florence Black

The Eugene McGrath Unit Number 52 of the Legion Auxiliary was organized in Armour, April 10, 1922. Its main objectives are to bring some happiness to the disabled veterans in hospitals, to perpetuate Americanism, and to help the Legion Post.

After World War II, the American Legion changed its name to McGrath-Ferguson Post in honor of the first one who gave his life for his country in World War II. The Auxiliary name was also changed and a new permanent charter was issued on March 24, 1947.

Many names of pioneer women appear in old record books. They were the mothers and sisters of boys who fought in the wars. Records show carpet rags were sent to the veterans hospitals for therapeutic rehabilitation, and of gifts of cards, bed socks, bibs and pillows needed in hospitals. Members today contribute these articles to hospitals as they are needed by the disabled.

Each year, the Auxiliary sponsors a Poppy Day sale just before Memorial Day. Money is given to disabled veterans. The Auxiliary began with about 40 members. Today, there are 28 active members.

Armour Boy Scout Troop

By Charles Crutchett

The Boy Scout movement was brought to America in 1910. Harold Edward Crutchett organized Boy Scout Troop No. 1 in Armour in the summer of 1911. This was probably the first Boy Scout Troop in South Dakota. The troop movement in Armour lapsed for a time and when a new troop was organized, it was at times given a different number from that of the preceding troops.

H. E. Crutchett was registered as Troop No. 1 scoutmaster, July, 1911 - July, 1913;

Rev. Marion Sunderlin, September, 1913 - September, 1914; and H. E. Crutchett again served from April, 1916 to April, 1919.

Today, the Scouting movement is again in existence in Armour with both the Boy Scouts and the Cub Scouts.

O. P. Morton Post No. 51, Grand Army Of the Republic

By Charles P. Crutchett

O. P. Morton Post No. 51, Grand Army of the Republic, was organized in Grand View, March 15, 1884, in the office of Dr. T. M. Stewart. First officers were A. Duncan, post commander; Harry Thompson, senior vice commander; John F. Keeton, junior vice commander; Paul Grabill, post adjutant; Chauncey Brown, officer of the day; Thos. J. Montgomery, officer of the guard; Dr. T. M. Stewart, surgeon; Oscar Dunlap, chaplain; Chas. E. Huston, quartermaster; John S. Bean, quartermaster sergeant; and Wm. N. Streeter, sergeant major.

The O. P. Morton Post, G. A. R., was ordered by G. A. R. Headquarters, Department of Dakota, on Jan. 5, 1888, to be moved to Armour. The first meeting in Armour was held at the K. P. Hall on Feb. 11, 1888.

The G. A. R. had many members in Armour and for many years had an active part in the Memorial Day observances. With the death of M. H. Surpless in 1934, the Armour G. A. R. lost its last member.

The Women's Relief of G. A. R. was organized in Grand View. Mrs. Margaret B. Miltmore was active in the group and Mrs. John Bean was chaplain for several years.

The Sons of Veterans of G. A. R. had a camp in Grand View. Arthur Huston was the first captain.

Armour Commercial Club

During the past 75 years, there have been various businessmen's organizations. Because of the lack of interest on the part of many businessmen, they were discontinued.

In 1943, the Armour Commercial Club was started by some of the Armour businessmen interested in promoting some of the events which are generally considered to be the duty of the businessmen's organization. Since that time, the Armour Commercial Club has done considerable work in the promotion of various activities and serving as a public relations organization in the development of Armour. This year, the Commercial Club is in charge of the Diamond Jubilee Celebration, the big event of 1961.

ARMOUR BUSINESSES, 1961

An attempt has been made to compile a complete list of all Armour businesses. The publishers will not be held liable for omissions and/or errors which are accidental and unintentional.

AMERICAN BREEDERS SERVICE
ANDERSON JEWELRY
ARMOUR BODY SHOP
ARMOUR CHRONICLE
ARMOUR CLEANERS
ARMOUR DECORATING CENTER
ARMOUR IMPLEMENT
ARMOUR IND. TELEPHONE CO.
ARMOUR LAUNDERAMA
ARMOUR LIVESTOCK FEEDING SERVICE
ARMOUR LOCKER PLANT
ARMOUR OIL CO.
ARMOUR VARIETY STORE
BELITZ STYLE SHOP
BERRY BARBER SHOP
BLUE MOON
BOBELDYKE HATCHERY
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
CARGILL ELEVATOR
CARLON SERVICE STATION
CITY LIQUOR STORE
CLEMENT'S MORTUARY
COAST-TO-COAST STORE
COFFEE SHOP
CRUTCHETT DRUG STORE
DE WALD'S MARKET
DON'S RADIO & T.V. CLINIC
DOUGLAS COUNTY A.S.C.
DOUGLAS COUNTY TITLE CO.
DOUGLAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
DUBES & CARMODY
EDWARDS MOTOR SALES
FECHNER MOTOR CLINIC

FIRST STATE BANK
FLOETE LAND & LOAN
FREDDIE'S MARKET
FRIENDLY GAS, INC.
FUCH'S SEED STORE
FULLERTON LUMBER CO.
GAMBLE STORE AND DOERING
FURNITURE
HAMDORF'S WOOD SHOP
HAROLD'S STANDARD SERVICE
HUCK'S CAFE AND GRILL
KINGSWOOD MINK RANCH
KNODEL OIL CO.
LORAIN THEATRE
McDONALD PLUMBING
MORAN BARBER SHOP
MORROW PRODUCE & MOBILE MILLING
MUNSON BLACKSMITH
NASE HATCHERY
NORTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE
PETERSEN'S STORE
PHYLLIS BEAUTY SHOP
POLKINGHORN INSURANCE CO.
PINE ROOM
RAYLOU BOWL
RAY'S TAVERN
ROTHENBERGER JEEP TRENCHING
SERR PLUMBING & HEATING
SHANARD ELEVATOR
SMITH MOTEL
SMITTY'S DRIVE-IN CAFE
STANDARD BULK AGENT, Herb Harms
STOCKYARDS, F. D. & Robert Hawley
STELZER REXALL DRUGS
TOMMY'S SHOE REPAIR
U. S. POST OFFICE
VIOLA'S BEAUTY SHOP
WALZ' DIGGING
WUDEL CHEVROLET

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Looking north at East Main—from south end



Looking south at West Main



Looking east from Bank corner



Looking south at East Main



Looking north at West Main

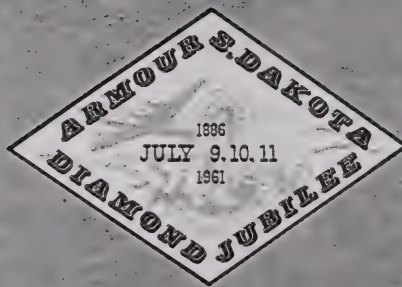


Looking north at East Main—middle block



Looking north at West Main—center block

Printed by
Chronicle, Armour, S. D.
and
Argus Printers, Stickney, S. Dak.





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